

Robb Report

AUGUST 2015

MALAYSIA

FESTIVAL OF SPEED

ALL THE BEST FROM
GOODWOOD 2015

SAUCES FOR COURSES

JOEL ROBUCHON'S
INVENTIVE GENIUS

HAUTE HORLOGERIE

THIS SEASON'S
TIMEKEEPING
MARVELS



PLUS

CARTIER
BREGUET
PATEK PHILIPPE
JAEGER-LECOULTRE

ENTER CARBOTEC

A NEW LOOK FOR PANERAI'S LUMINOR SUBMERSIBLE





PATEK PHILIPPE
GENEVE

Begin your own tradition.

You never actually own
a Patek Philippe.

You merely look after it for
the next generation.



Annual Calendar Ref. 5205G

Tel: (65) 6732 1506
patek.com



SINCE 1715 LA MAISON MARTELL HAS BEEN DRAWING ITS UNIQUE BLENDS FROM THOUSANDS OF EXTREMELY RICH AND DIVERSE EAUX-DE-VIES.
A TRICENTENAIRE ART EMBODIED BY MARTELL CORDON BLEU.

ENJOY OUR QUALITY RESPONSIBLY.



MARTELL
1715 - 2015
300
TRICENTENAIRE

THE ART OF MARTELL FOR 300 YEARS



#MARTELL300

MARTELL.COM

YOUR PLEASURE IS ALWAYS ON THE HOUSE

WELCOME TO THE SPECTACLE OF A
HIGH-DRAMA, HIGH FASHION LIFE,
WHERE LUXURY IS UNPARALLELED,
AND CHIC IS IMMORTALISED.



+603 2141 3188
+601 8203 8888
tropicanaresidences.com

Developer: **Tropicana Residences Sdn Bhd** 430421-D
Level 10 - 12 Tropicana City Office Tower
3 Jalan SS 20/27, 47400 PJ, Selangor, Malaysia
t. +603 7710 1018 f. +603 7725 3035
e. enquiry@tropicanaresidences.com

• Developer's License No.: 11888-1/12-2015/02384(I) • Validity Period: 18/12/2014 - 17/12/2015
• Advertising & Sales Permit No.: 11888-1/12-2014/02384(P) • Validity Period: 18/12/2014 - 17/12/2015
• Approving Authority: Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur • Building Plan Reference Number: D8KL BP T3 OSC 2013 1571 • Expected Completion Date: Nov 2018 • Land Tenure: Freehold • Land Encumbrance: Affin Bank Berhad • Total No. of Units: 353 • Type of Property: Serviced Residences • Selling Price: RM2,011,800(Min) - RM7,934,800(Max) • Built Up Area: 710sqft (Min) - 2,973sqft (Max) • Bumi Discount: 5%



TROPICANA
THE RESIDENCES
KLCC

KUALA LUMPUR'S ICONIC PREMIUM RESIDENCES



PREMIUM
SERVICED
RESIDENCES
ATOP THE FIRST
W HOTEL IN
MALAYSIA

2 MINUTES
TO PETRONAS
TWIN TOWERS

DESIGNED BY THE
WORLD-RENOWNED
ARCHITECT OF THE
BURJ KHALIFA -
S.O.M.

Rising majestically to a skyscraping 55 floors, Tropicana The Residences is an iconic column in the heart of Kuala Lumpur's city centre. With an international brand hotel on the lower floors and pure, unadulterated vibrancy on the upper levels, Tropicana The Residences is the centre of attraction in this happening metropolitan city.



Forest Lounge



Saltwater Sky Pool



Lobby



Sweet Club

All information contained herein (including specifications, plans, measurements, renderings and illustrations) are subject to amendments, variations and modifications without notification as may be required by the relevant authorities, or developer's consultants and is not intended to form and cannot form part of an offer and contract. Whilst every reasonable care has been taken in preparing this information, the developer cannot be held liable for any variation or inaccuracy. All measurements, areas, layout, boundaries, plans, dimensions, distances and elevations including without limitation all locations and positions of walls, windows, doors, pillars and/or other fixtures as well as their specific detailing depicted in any text or plan or brochure or other marketing material are not an actual depiction of the measurements, areas, layout, boundaries, plans, dimensions, distances and elevations including without limitation all locations and positions of walls, windows, doors, pillars and/or other fixtures as well as their specific detailing of the properties offered for sale. Actual development may differ from that depicted or may not occur. Prospective purchasers and others are advised not to rely on any of drawings or plans contained in any text or plan or brochure or other marketing material.

A member of  **TROPICANA**
CORPORATION BERHAD
丽阳机构



49

REGULARS

20 Letter from the Editor

22 Agenda

24 Frontrunners

29 Robb's Favourite Shop

30 Grand Openings

40 Portfolio

44 Robb Collections

56 Robb Concierge

57 Auctions

116 Details

142 Realty Check

174 Robb Reader

178 The Last Word



26



75



33

58 Haute Horlogerie

The quest to achieve the pinnacle of fine watchmaking and the many bold spirits who inhabit that world.



26

TO BREAK THE RULES,
YOU MUST FIRST MASTER
THEM.

THE VALLÉE DE JOUX. FOR MILLENNIA A HARSH,
UNYIELDING ENVIRONMENT; AND SINCE 1875 THE
HOME OF AUDEMARS PIGUET, IN THE VILLAGE OF LE
BRASSUS. THE EARLY WATCHMAKERS WERE
SHAPED HERE, IN AWE OF THE FORCE OF NATURE
YET DRIVEN TO MASTER ITS MYSTERIES THROUGH
THE COMPLEX MECHANICS OF THEIR CRAFT. STILL
TODAY THIS PIONEERING SPIRIT INSPIRES US TO
CONSTANTLY CHALLENGE THE CONVENTIONS OF
FINE WATCHMAKING.



ROYAL OAK
IN STAINLESS STEEL.
SELF-WINDING
MANUFACTURE
MOVEMENT.

AUDEMARS PIGUET
Le Brassus

ESTD  1954
SINCERE
FINE WATCHES

PAVILION KL (03) 2141 8418
SURIA KLCC (03) 2166 2181
AUDEMARSPIGUET.COM



144

» Style «

104 Oxygen Boost

Essential to life and also essential to beauty. Oxygen is the power ingredient in Karin Herzog's skincare.

110 Stealth Wealth

The curious case of a private jeweller in Milan that no one, except those in the most exclusive circles, has access to.

» Art & Design «

130 On Form

In Sydney, a project of spellbinding beauty is now in the making by Sydney-based Crown Development, winner of the NSW Best Concept Design last year.

134 Royal Canvas

Contemporary artist Anish Kapoor visits Versailles this

summer and p p ly deploys his political perspectives on power.

» Wheels «

144 Time of Their Lives

Motor racing royalty turned out in full force to rev some vintage engines at the Goodwood Festival of Speed.



THE THINNEST
TOURBILLON
MOVEMENT
IN THE WORLD

BVLGARI

OCTO

finissimo
TOURBILLON

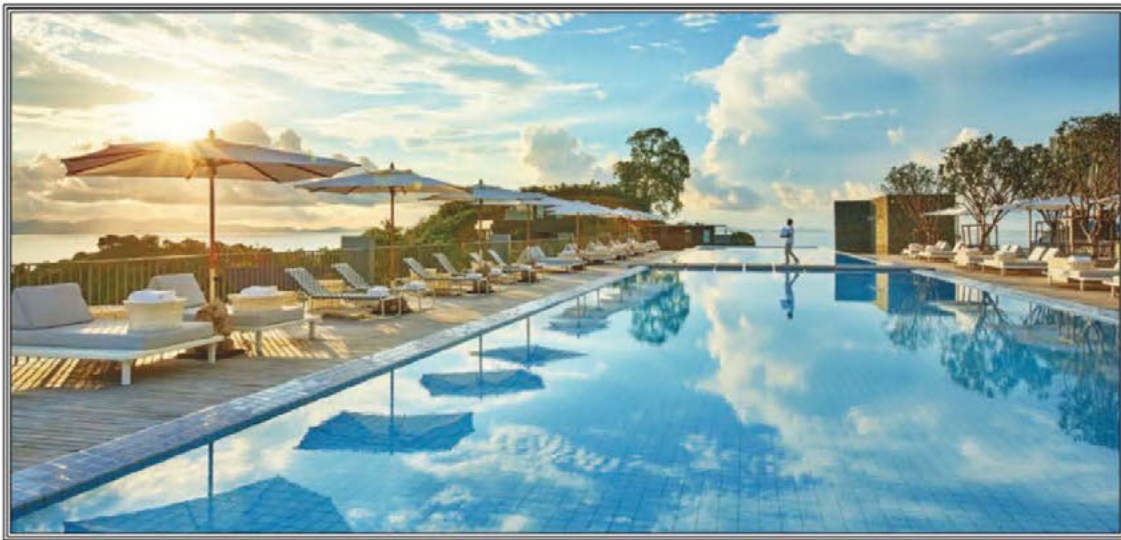
BOUTIQUES
KUALA LUMPUR • PAVILION, SURIA KLCC

AUTHORIZED RETAILERS
KUALA LUMPUR • CORTINA WATCH, SINCERE FINE WATCHES

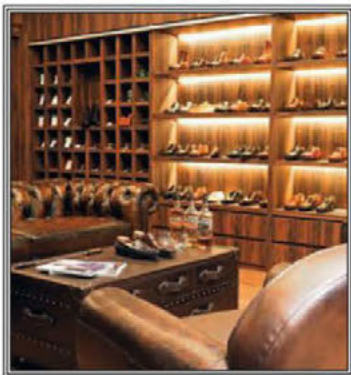
*«Details make perfection,
and perfection is not a detail»*

Leonardo da Vinci

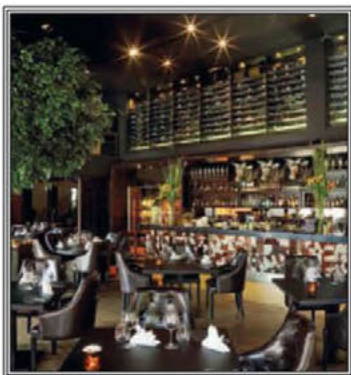
BVLGARI.COM



154



108



172

✧ Travel & Leisure ✧

154 Match Point

Perched on a secluded hill in Phuket, Poi Y by Como offers well-m naged luxury villas for investors.

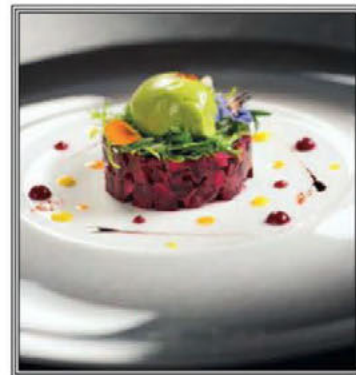
✧ Savour ✧

158 The Rising Star of South East Asia

Filipino food, once an under-the-radar cuisine, is fast gaining traction.

164 Belle of Bordeaux

In Bordeaux, the wine used to matter more than the food. But with the opening of Joel Robuchon's La Grande Maison, visitors can now really wine and dine.



164



168

antoniolupi

www.antoniolupi.it



bath+
designer bathroom

1800 88 bath | info@bathplus.com.my
OMNI/01, 11 Lorong Teknologi C, PJU 5 Kota Damansara, 47810 Petaling Jaya.

Robb Report

Editorial

Editorial Director **Kenneth Tan** (k.tan@imv.com.sg)

Editor-in-Chief **Shamilee Vellu** (s.vellu@imv.com.sg)

Fashion Editor **Jason Lim** (j.lim@imv.com.sg)

Fashion and Art & Design Editor **Doreen Tan** (d.tan@imv.com.sg)

Watches & Jewellery Editor **Ho Yun Kuan** (yk.ho@imv.com.sg)

Chief Sub-Editor **Jacqueline Danam**

Editorial Assistant **Vanessa Simon**

Art

Group Creative Director **Shabir Mahmood**

Senior Designer **Masha Ivanova**

Graphic Designer **Atikah Yusoff**

Picture Editor **Wendy Khaing**

Contributing Experts

Wheels **Wolfgang Stegers**

Wines & Spirits **Zephyr Tan**

Savour **Clement Lim**

Contributors

Amanda Millin, Alex Williams, Alexander Lobrano, Alywin Chew, Andrea Sim, Dionne Bel, Duncan Forgan, Gwen Lee, Henri Viiralt, Jackie Caradonio, Jennifer Choo, Josh Sims, Karen Tee, Maria Doulton, Mark Lean, Rebecca Morris, Renyi Lim, Sasha Gonzales, Su Jia Xian, Tia Tan, Tiong Li Cheng, Tracy Phillips

GROUP EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Alex Choma (a.choma@imv.com.sg)

Production

Design Concept **Dmitry Barbanel**

Typefaces **Alexey Chekulaev, Yuri Gordon, Eugeny Yukechev**

Prepress Next Level Publishing mediaintegrale s.l.

Printer Percetakan Zanders Sdn Bhd (205766A), No 16, Jalan BK 1/11, Bandar Kinrara, 47180 Puchong
Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

E&O

*"Life isn't about finding yourself.
Life is about creating yourself."
- George Bernard Shaw*

Photos taken at St Mary Penthouse Suite.



Appreciating the enduring values in people's lives inspires us to create places of true worth. A vantage point designed with distinction, St Mary's triplex penthouse suites are uniquely appointed with dedicated entrances on the first and second floors. With private pools and sky decks, the final reserve of these Manhattan inspired penthouses commands views over Kuala Lumpur's vibrant Central Business District and secures the fortunate few an unrivalled perspective on life.

Those who know, insist on E&O

.....
*Call our St Mary Penthouse Advisor to secure
your private viewing.*

ST MARY RESIDENCES

No.1, Jalan Tengah, Off Jalan Sultan Ismail 50450, Kuala Lumpur
T 603 2161 3668 E enquiry@stmaryresidences.com www.stmaryresidences.com



st Mary
Residences
CBD · KLCC
PENTHOUSE SUITES

Robb Report

Advertising Sales and Marketing

Director Regional Sales IMV **Perlyn de Rouvray** (p.derouvray@imv.com.sg)

Malaysia

Director of Sales **Venis Loo** (v.loo@imv.com.sg)

Assistant Sales Manager **Sherleen Lim** (s.lim@imv.com.sg)

Singapore

Commercial Director IMV **Rina Malakar** (r.malakar@imv.com.sg)

Associate Director of Sales **Glynis Wong** (g.wong@imv.com.sg)

Marketing Director Singapore and Malaysia **Lana Nyfeler** (l.nyfeler@imv.com.sg)

Marketing Executive **Janice Chan** (jzm.chan@imv.com.sg)

Sales & Marketing Assistant **Dhiya Pirie** (d.pirie@imv.com.sg)

For sales and marketing enquiries, please call +603 7971 1758

PR & Event and Marketing Consultants

R.S.V.P.-Lifestyle Communications Agency, Singapore

Production

Production Director

Anna Tsirelnikova

Finance

Finance and Admin Manager

Sean Seah

IT

Manager

Benedict Calaycay

President

Michael von Schlippe

Published by

Indochine Media Ventures Sdn Bhd

B-7-13A, Gateway Kiaramas,

No 1, Jalan Desa Kiara,

50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

under the licence of CurtCo Robb Media

LLC, 29160 Heathercliff Road, Suite 200,

Malibu, CA 90265, USA

Ad Sales Representative in Italy

Leila Aliakparova

(Leila.al@fastwebnet.it)

Corso Genova, 23

20123 Milano, Italy

Tel/fax: +39 02 8907 4593

Ad Sales Representative in France

Magali Riboud

(mriboud@studio-riboud.com)

130 rue de Courcelles

75017 Paris, France

Tel: +33 142 563 336

Fax: +33 142 563 331



The most beautiful
inspiration since 1854

"A delicate coat of silken velvet sheen spreads over it, leading the glance into its hidden depths, rendered as unfathomable as mountain lakes by a tiny trace of cobalt blue. Of enchanting beauty and nearly as valuable is the marine blue sapphire, dazzling yet warmly radiant crystallized drops of the deep blue oriental ocean."

Dr. Eduard J. Gubelin (1913–2005)

Exclusively at Starhill Gallery
UG 31 Adorn Floor
Tel. +603 2141 9669
www.gubelin.com



GUBELIN

Robb Report

CURTCO ROBB MEDIA, LLC

Chief Executive Officer **William J Curtis**

Assistant to the CEO **Melody Larsen**

Senior Vice President, Group Publisher **David Arnold**

Senior Vice President, Consumer Development **Lauren Coniglio** · *Senior Vice President, Publishing* **Colette Alderson**

Senior Vice President, Mfg & Production **Randall Ishimine**

Vice President, Human Resources **Melinda Lyon**

Senior Vice President, Finance **Todd Duca**

General Manager, Advertising **Daniel Adomian**

Senior Vice President, Controller **Charles Gawartin**

ROBB REPORT

Senior Vice President/Editor-in-Chief **Brett Anderson**

Editorial Director **Bruce Wallin**

Executive Editor **Larry Bean**

Managing Editor **Lori Bryan**

Associate Managing Editor **Nikki Prange**

Senior Vice President/Design Director **Ken de Bie**

Art Director **Rufus Agbede**

Group Production Director **Karen E Nicolas**

Corporate Office

29160 Heathercliff Road,
Suite 200, Malibu, CA 90265
Tel: +1 310 589 7700
Fax: +1 310 589 7701

New England Office

One Acton Place,
Acton, MA 01720
Tel: +1 978 264 7500
Fax: +1 978 264 7502

New York Office

10 East 53rd Street,
35th floor,
New York, NY 10022
Tel: +1 212 201 1111
Fax: +1 212 201 1112

Robb Report Malaysia is published monthly by Indochine Media Ventures Sdn Bhd, registration number 1103831-D. Permit number PP18627/10/2014 (034060). Indochine Media has taken every reasonable care to ensure the accuracy and objectivity of the information contained in this publication, but accepts no responsibility for the content of advertisements published, and no liability for mistake, misprint, omission, typographical error, loss or damage suffered as a result of relying wholly or in part on the content of advertising or editorial published herein. Indochine Media reserves the right to refuse any advertisement or advertorial for any reason. All artwork designed by Indochine Media or any part of this publication may not be reproduced in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form or by means – graphical, electronic or mechanical, photocopying, recording, taping, etc – without prior permission in writing from the Publishers.

THE GOOD LIFE ☒ AT A GREAT PRICE

SUBSCRIBE NOW AND RECEIVE TWO ISSUES FREE
THE GLOBAL LUXURY RESOURCE, DELIVERED TO YOUR DOORSTEP
OR ON YOUR IPAD EVERY MONTH



Subscribe to the print version of *Robb Report Malaysia* for one year at just RM159 including GST (usual price RM190.80 with GST). **Or** subscribe to the digital edition on Magzter (for Android and iOS) or Apple Newsstand for US\$3.99 per issue or US\$39.90 for one year with two issues free.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

ONLINE (BY CREDIT/DEBIT CARD OR PAYPAL)

Visit imv.com.sg/index.php/subscriptions for local or international delivery.

BY CHEQUE

Please include your full name, contact number and delivery address and make your cheque payable to Indochine Media Ventures Sdn Bhd and send to *Robb Report Malaysia*, B-7-13A, Gateway Kiaramas, No. 1, Jalan Desa Kiara, 50480 Mont Kiara, Kuala Lumpur.



The time is right

The history of horology remembers those who fought for the moments. In 1903, Jacques-David LeCoultre cycled for over an hour to a neighbouring village to make the fateful telephone call to Parisian Edmond Jaeger, who had challenged the Swiss to invent an ultra-thin calibre. A year later, Louis Cartier created one of the first wristwatches for men for Brazilian aviator Alberto Santos Dumont, so the latter could tell time while flying. In 1905, Alfred Davis and his brother-in-law Hans Wilsdorf decided to found Wilsdorf and Davis in London. This company would

eventually become Rolex. In 1969, Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong became the first human beings to set foot on the moon. Aldrin wore an Omega Speedmaster Professional, which came to be known as the Moonwatch.

This issue explores high horology's riches; from million-dollar pieces to enigmatic designs. In speaking to the heads of various watchmaking maisons, one fact is certain: the world of horology relies on the concerted effort of skilled people to realise a perfect vision of mechanical supremacy.

Kenneth Tan

Photo CORBIS

Three Stars. One Chance.

Malaysia's first Three-Star Michelin pop-up restaurant



Acclaimed Spanish Chef Eneko Atxa, whose restaurant Azurmendi in Bilbao, Spain holds a rare and prestigious **three-star Michelin** rating is bringing his spectacular cuisine to Mandarin Oriental, Kuala Lumpur.

For 88 days only, from 22 July to 31 October 2015, the renowned Mandarin Grill will be transformed into KL's most exclusive dining venue. **AZIAMENDI 88** will bring highly trained chefs, service team and sommeliers to lead the innovative pop-up restaurant. To enhance the experience, stunning artwork will be featured from **Wei-Ling Gallery**.

Reservations will become available from 15 June 2015 onwards. As part of **AZIAMENDI 88** and Mandarin Oriental's commitment to corporate social responsibility, 5% of all profits will be donated to worthy charities.

Lunch

5 courses	RM 198 per person (served within 1 hour)
8 courses	RM 438 per person

Dinner

8 courses	RM 438 per person
12 courses	RM 598 per person

Find out more information on **AZIAMENDI 88**, Kuala Lumpur www.aziamendi88.com, Azurmendi, Bilbao www.azurmendi.com or Aziamendi, Phuket www.aziamendi.com.



AZIAMENDI88

Reservations are essential.

Please call +60(3) 2380 8888 or email az88@mohg.com.



MANDARIN ORIENTAL
KUALA LUMPUR

AUGUST EVENT GUIDE

What's worth doing this month, in Asia and beyond.

By VANESSA SIMON



Epicurean Market 2015

14 to 16 August

Singapore's highly anticipated gourmet fair returns with an even more exciting feast of flavours from around the world. Pick up culinary tips from experts such as chefs David Myers, Justin Quek and more, or purchase gourmet ingredients from the Farmer's Market. www.marinabaysands.com



Baltimore Summer Antiques Show

20 to 23 August

This is the largest indoor antique show in the US and there's something for every collector, from novices to museum curators. Featuring over 550 international exhibitors, you can expect major works of art, vintage jewellery, Asian antiquities and furniture. www.baltimoresummershow.com



Hublot Polo Gold Cup Gstaad

13 to 16 August

Some of the best polo players in the world, including Olavo Novaes from Brazil, will be showing off their skills at the Gstaad-Saanen airport field. Hublot will once again be one of the sponsors for this event, along with other well-known names such as McLaren Geneva. www.polo-gstaad.ch



Jazz a Domergue

2 to 5 August

The lush Cannes garden of famed French painter, Jean-Gabriel Dormegue, comes alive with top-notch jazz musical performances. Witness young prodigies from France and abroad as they bring jazz to a whole new level while staying true to its rich heritage. en.palaisdesfestivals.com

ART CALENDAR

Robb Report Malaysia presents this month's most aesthetically pleasing picks for your viewing pleasure.

By SASHA GONZALES



SINGAPORE NIGHT FESTIVAL

Over two weekends, the streets of Bras Basah and Bugis and the cultural venues in that area will come alive with spectacular interactive light performances, dance and music performances, and installation artworks by local talents. This year will also see the launch of Festival Village, featuring a flea market, food stalls, band performances and movie screenings.

Where: Bras Basah and Bugis **When:** 21–22 and 28–29 Aug **Tickets:** Free

JUBILEE WEEKEND PROGRAMME

Celebrate SG50 with the many programmes and activities taking place island-wide, from Marina Bay to the National Stadium and even the neighbourhood parks. Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay will showcase art installations and dance and music performances by local talents, while the Singapore Botanic Gardens will host bandstand performances, a symphony concert and outdoor movie screenings. Plus, special exhibitions at selected museums will be open to the public for free.

Where: Various locations **When:** 7–10 Aug **Tickets:** Free

PRESIDENT'S YOUNG TALENTS EXHIBITION

Inaugurated in 2001, Singapore's premier exhibition of commissioned artworks recognises and supports promising local artists below the age of 35. The five selected for the 2015 edition are Ang Song Ming, Bani Haykal, Ezzam Rahman, Loo Zihan and Ong Kian Peng. The exhibition will be accompanied by programmes for the public, which will include artist talks and curator tours.

Where: Singapore Art Museum **When:** 20 Aug – 31 Jan **Tickets:** Free



MASTERPIECE IN MOTION

This is Singapore Dance Theatre's international repertory season, featuring three spectacular ballets. The night kicks off with the company premiere of *Bournonville Divertissements* by August Bournonville, followed by the world premiere of *Midnight Waltzes* by Francois Klaus, and ending with *Opus 25*, which was specially choreographed by award-winning Chinese-American choreographer Edwaard Liang for the company's 25th anniversary.

Where: Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay **When:** 21–22 Aug **Tickets:** From \$40 (RM111)



I WEAR A
NECKLACE,
'CAUSE I
WANNA KNOW
WHEN I'M
UPSIDE DOWN.

Mitch Hedberg

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

**Piaget travels the Silk Route
with its latest high jewellery.**

By HO YUN KUAN

One is an Italian city famous for its canals and the other, an ancient metropolis in Uzbekistan dotted with UNESCO World Heritage sites. Venice and Samarkand may appear to have nothing in common, but they share an inextricable link – both cities were once destinations on the historic Silk Route.

Piaget tells the story of these two cities and the Silk Route in its latest high jewellery collection. The Secrets of Venice range features feather art, engraving and enamelling to evoke the architectural splendours of the Italian town. Lights of Samarkand celebrates the magic of the orient with colourful gems, lacquer work and micro mosaic. From the latter range, this multi-strand necklace of turquoise beads captures the beauty of clear skies. Flowers with emerald centres provide a colour contrast.

www.piaget.com



Burning Scent-sation

Armani/Prive Le Collection has a feisty new member.



Giorgio Armani's newest addition to its Armani/Prive fine fragrance range fits the fiery at heart. As the name suggests, Ambre Eccentrico (\$340, RM946 for 100ml) has a spicy wood amber accord at its core. The powerful scent is then intensified by notes of cinnamon bark, tonka bean and patchouli. The flame-coloured stone that adorns the bottle cap adds to the vibrancy of the perfume, shifting from mysterious dark caramel to an enchanting burnt umber with the light. armanibeauty.com

Royal Garden

Take a walk in Josephine Bonaparte's floral haven with Cire Trudon's latest candle.

Newly wed French queen Josephine Bonaparte commissioned a garden filled with scents that reminded her of home in the US. Under her care, the flora flourished, creating the magnificent Malmaison garden that still stands in Paris. Cire Trudon's Josephine candle (\$150) pays tribute to the late empress's botanical work in light blue glass and floral fragrances of Turkish rose, Egyptian jasmine and Chinese camellia at its heart.

www.ciretrudon.com



Great Scot

The first Johnnie Walker House in South East Asia opens in Singapore.

A luxury steamer trunk sits in the central atrium of the departure concourse at Changi Airport Terminal Three, a poignant reminder of a bygone era of travel. The unique design of the Johnnie Walker House retail showcase is inspired by the journeys its founder took to bring his whisky to connoisseurs around the world. Visitors to the store are greeted by a signature scent emitting the six flavour characteristics of Johnnie Walker Blue Label, while a tasting bar tempts with whiskies from the Super Deluxe range. In celebration of the store's opening, a limited-edition Johnnie Walker Blue Label with an ivory-coloured bottle featuring Singapore's skyline and Scotland's landscape will be exclusively available at the store. www.johnniwalkerhouse.com

Time for Love

IWC Schaffhausen launches a collection of his and hers timepieces.

A diamond ring may be the done thing, but to symbolise a commitment that is to last a lifetime, nothing can be more apt than a timepiece. IWC Schaffhausen presents a collection of eight matching Portofino Automatic watches, sized at 40mm for the men and a daintier 37mm for the ladies. The timepieces are available in stainless steel and rose gold with or without diamonds, and have been given an additional touch of luxury with alligator leather straps by Italian shoemaker Santoni. The timeless style of these watches is the best symbol of unchanging love. www.iwc.com



Sweet Treat

Laduree celebrates the power of love in dessert form.

This Mid-Autumn Festival, Laduree presents four limited-edition flavours of macarons: Earl Grey, Apricot, Toffee, and Fig and Date. The macarons are packaged in a specially designed box featuring a full moon on the lid. Chinese legend has it that on the moon lives Chang Er, a reluctant goddess who was once a mortal. She was forcefully separated from her husband, Hou Yi, and continues to look down wistfully on her loved one to this day. Mooncakes are offered at every Mid-Autumn Festival to celebrate their love, but we think Chang Er deserves something different once in a while. www.laduree.com

Celebrate in Style

Rimowa marks Singapore's jubilee with special-edition luggage.

Rimowa has combined its exceptional craftsmanship with local up-and-coming artist Lee Xin Li's detailed designs for its new limited-edition luggage that celebrates Singapore's 50th birthday. The Merlion served as an inspiration for the collection and is featured on 300 pieces of the popular Topas Cabin Multiwheel IATA 36.0L model

through seamless multicoloured digital printing. The 300 pieces will retail at \$1,965, as a tribute to Singapore's year of independence, and will be available at selected Rimowa stores exclusively in Singapore from August.

www.rimowa.com





Carried Away

There's never been a more beautiful way to travel with technology.

Now this is a laptop bag to lust after: Want **Les Essentiels de la Vie's** Trudeau 14-inch computer bag (US\$1,295, RM4,800) in cool, collected blue caviar and black Italian calf leather will take you smoothly through your hectic schedule, from boardroom meetings to airport lounges. A total of 14 custom-designed interior and exterior pockets will have your cards, pens, city guides and passport ready when you need them, while a padded double-gusset interior with a lightweight fibreboard protective frame shields your computer from danger and clumsy travellers.

www.wantessentiels.com

Sharpen Your Senses

A new collaboration explores the intimate connection between sight and smell.



California-based eyewear designer Oliver Peoples has partnered Byredo fragrance house in Stockholm to delve into the phenomenon of synaesthesia – the joint perception of senses, or in this case, uniting frames and scents in perfect balance. A limited-edition, bespoke box set (US\$530) comprises Oliver Peoples acetate sunglasses in semi matte black or beige crystal, accompanied by a bottle of Byredo's custom-blended perfume. byredo.com

Pull No Punches

Elisabeth Weinstock helps you observe the Queensberry Rules in style.

If you found yourself fired up by the recent fight between Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao, try your hand at a left hook with these fierce Manila boxing gloves (US\$1,350), crafted from black whipsnake. You won't even have to worry about wearing them out on your opponents' faces in the ring because whipsnake skin maintains itself and looks better with age as you continue using it. So spar away and bring new meaning to the phrase 'sports luxe'.

www.elisabethweinstock.com





TASTE OF TRADITION

Hediard offers a treasure trove of Gallic epicurean delights.

By BEN CHIN

The historic shophouses of Tudor Court in Singapore became home to the distinctive red and black marque of French delicatessen Hediard a decade ago and it's no accident that the architectural style resembles its sister boutique in Deauville, Normandy. The building was specially picked for its unique 'dollhouse' look. Dark mahogany and vermillion walls create an intimate setting for shoppers to browse through the brand's 1,200 or so products or enjoy a coffee with a Croque-Ferdinand, a dish inspired by founder Ferdinand Hediard.

The name Hediard has been associated



The Hediard boutique is a theatrical display of scents, colours and flavours.

with gourmet offerings since its beginnings in 1854, but owners Verena and Fabien Raveton wanted an informal cafe for customers to have a taste of Paris. Here, diners can sample a menu designed by Hediard Paris chef Vincent Carayon in a casual setting. Besides the famous fruit jellies, teas such as the exclusive Singapore Spicy Blend are popular items on the extensive menu. In 1935, Ferdinand Hediard's niece, Germaine Kusel, conceived the brand's now-iconic hampers. Hediard's new bespoke gifts e-service, Sur-Mesure, takes this tradition into the mobile age as customers can select hampers on the go. www.hediard.com.sg

ITALIAN JOB

Naza Italia relaunches its newly refurbished Ferrari and Maserati flagship showroom in Petaling Jaya.

Naza Italia is reported to have spent around RM5 million on the refurbishment, resulting in one of the largest facilities of its kind outside Italy.



By **KENNETH TAN**

Decidedly the most conspicuous highlight along the Federal Highway, the gleaming Naza Italia centre welcomes Ferrari and Maserati fans with a new facade and interior. Here lies the epicentre of Malaysia's sole authorised importer and distributor for the two Italian marques.

Models on display include the hottest kid on the block, a Rosso Corsa Met 488 GTB (RM1,068,800 excluding duty and options) capable of a gasp-inducing 661bhp – the highest specific power output of any road-going Ferrari.

Here at the showroom, other thoroughbreds of the prancing horse family reside: the F12berlinetta, California T, FF and 458. Joining this fleet are Maserati's Quattroporte, GranTurismo, GranCabrio and Ghibli. In addition to an atelier and a state-of-art 4S offering, the upgraded

building also houses a fully equipped business centre and boardroom for members to conduct their work as well as to partake in their shared passions for thrilling driving machines. **Naza**

Italia Lot 3, Jalan 15A/ 221, Petaling Jaya Tel: +603 7956 8599 www.kualalumpur.ferraridealers.com, www.maseratidealers.com

www.kualalumpur.ferraridealers.com

www.maseratidealers.com

naza-italia





PACKING A PUNCH

Apricot Hotel Hanoi goes big on art.

By RENYI LIM



The former Phu Gia Hotel (inset) now features crisp and light interiors with marble floors and extravagant chandeliers.

Although drifting off to sleep in a gallery might be frowned upon in certain places, that's exactly what you're expected to do at Apricot Hotel. Situated in Hanoi's quaint Old Quarter, the 10-storey French colonial hotel showcases more than 600 original works of art by Vietnam's master painters and contemporary up-and-comers.

Guests can appreciate classic pieces by Mai Thu, Phan Ke An

and Nguyen Dung while they take afternoon tea at the opulent Atelier lobby, or as they relax in one of the 123 neoclassical rooms. For a fresh perspective, the One 36 rooftop bar offers a sweeping view of Hoan Kiem Lake and its iconic Turtle Tower – perhaps one of the greatest works of art that the city has to offer its visitors. **Apricot Hotel** 136 Hang Trong, Hoan Kiem, Hanoi Tel: +84 4 3828 9595 www.apricothotels.com

DANISH DUO

Fritz Hansen and Louis Poulsen create the dream combination.

By KENNETH TAN

Two Danish legends from the world of design now co-exist in a single stunning showroom in Kuala Lumpur. Louis Poulsen, whose lighting fixtures were conceptualised by the genius of Poul Henningsen in the 1920s, became world-famous at the Paris Exposition when it debuted its vision of beautiful modern lighting.

Meanwhile, the works of Fritz Hansen share similar roots in craftsmanship, design

and an attention to detail. In the hands of Arne Jacobsen, Fritz Hansen became synonymous with symbols of modern-retro classics from icons such as Drop and the oft-imitated Egg.

Beyond its superstar designers such as Poul Kjaerholm, Kasper Salto and Jaime Hayon, Fritz Hansen also imbues a great deal of research and science into its furniture. **XTRA Furniture** 2nd Floor, The Gardens Mall, Kuala Lumpur Tel: +603 2282 9088 www.xtrafurniture.com

French architect Christian de Portzamparc used the fluid lines of the toile fabrics used by Dior and old watercolours to design the facade.

Facing page:

New York-based Peter Marino designed the interiors using wood, lacquers, leathers, amazing weaves and innovative melanges.

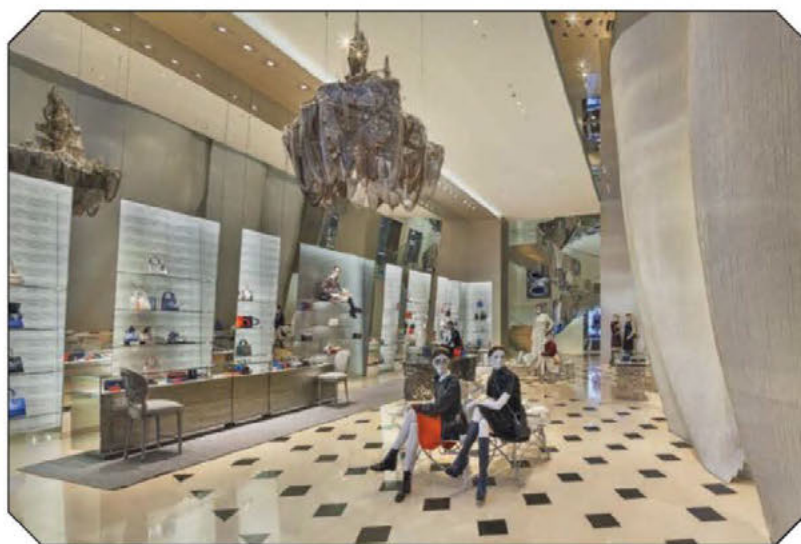


Photos KYUNGSUB SHIN

HEART AND SEOUL

Dior's latest store opening goes to show why the South Korean city is set to be the world's next fashion capital.

By JASON LIM




With all eyes turning towards South Korea, it is by no mere coincidence that Dior has chosen to build one of its largest and most beautiful boutiques in the very heart of Seoul.

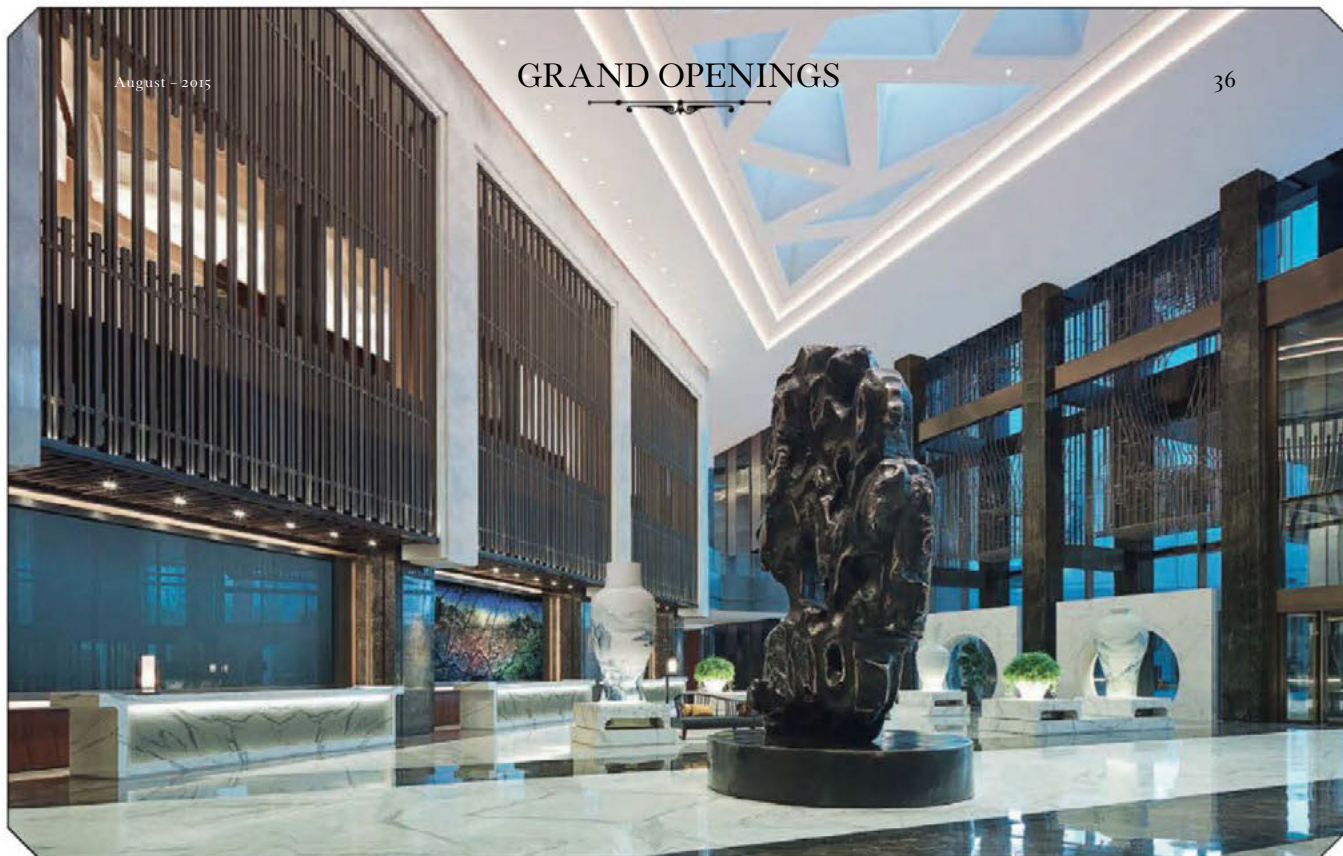
Located in a district that was rather unfortunately imbued into

our daily discourse through song, Gangnam commands one of the highest real estate prices per square metre in South Korea.

The Dior boutique spans six levels, with dedicated floors for men, accessories, fine jewellery and watches, ready-to-wear and shoes, a dedicated VIP lounge and

gallery and on its uppermost floor, a Dior cafe operated by the Picasso of pastry, Pierre Herme.

Limited-edition Lady Diors as well as jewellery and accessories will be sold at the boutique in celebration of its opening. **Dior** 464 Apgujeong-ro, Gangnam-gu, Seoul, South Korea
Tel: +82 2 513 0300 www.dior.com 



THE ARTISTIC TOUCH

Nuo Hotel Beijing finally opens its doors to show off an art collection that would not look out of place in a museum.

By TIA TAN



An amalgamation of art and culture with a touch of contemporary chic, Nuo Hotel Beijing, the flagship property of Chinese hospitality group Nuo Hotels, has finally opened after three years of anticipation. The hotel promises modern comforts in each of its 439 guestrooms, which boast high-definition flat-screen televisions and Bluetooth-enabled Bose stereo speakers as well as marble floors reminiscent of those found in residences of the Ming dynasty.

Located near the 798 Art Zone, the five-star



hotel stands as a celebration of Chinese talent. Works by intellectual Zhang Dai greet guests in the lobby, while the brilliance of artist Zeng Fanzhi is flaunted through original print wall murals in every room. A silver and bronze sculpture titled *Revered Mountain* and an oil painting titled *Landscape 2014*, two magnificent masterpieces created by the renowned Zeng, also hang in a place of honour at the hotel's grand lobby. **Nuo Hotel Beijing**
2A Jiangtai Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing
Tel: +86 10 6432 6826 www.nuohotel.com



GOOD TIDINGS

Nobu Kuala Lumpur signals the South East Asian debut of the Michelin-starred titan.

By KENNETH TAN

Since its soft opening in September last year, Nobu Kuala Lumpur has offered the inventive cuisine and bold global flavours of chef Nobuyuki Matsuhisa for the first time in South East Asia.

Located in the shadow of Petronas Twin Towers, this 1,115sqm space was recently launched in an official ceremony by Matsuhisa, his associates Hollywood legend Robert De Niro and producer Meir Teper, and an ensemble of VIPs.

The restaurant includes an elegant main dining area and sushi bar for up to 200 guests, two bars, a lounge and private dining rooms.

Inset:
Rock Shrimp
Tempura.

On the menu, one finds Matsuhisa's simplicity of flavours infused in bento boxes, rolls, sashimi, cold dishes such as Octopus Carpaccio and hot dishes like King Crab Tempura with Amazu Ponzu. Drinks include an expansive wine and sake list as well as signature house cocktails such as Matsuhisa martinis and Mia margaritas. **Nobu Kuala Lumpur** Level 56, Menara 3 Petronas, KLCC, Kuala Lumpur Tel: +603 2164 5084 www.noburestaurants.com

G SHARP

Another design-centric hotel joins the party in Penang, Malaysia's newest It city.

By TIA TAN



Its street art has been hogging headlines and art awareness in Penang is growing steadily. It's timely, then, that design again takes centre stage at G Hotel Kelawai, the city's latest ode to style.

Muted lighting, plush leather seats and designer furniture greet guests in the lobby. Each of the hotel's 208 rooms is well-stocked with eco-friendly Appelles toiletries, a docking station and free high-speed Wi-Fi. In addition, guests on the

executive floor enjoy a complimentary shoe shine service.

Carb lovers can revel in the array of loaves offered at Spoon Cafe, the French bistro-inspired eatery, which offers freshly baked bread. Those seeking more potent delights can head up to Gravity, a rooftop bar that offers spectacular views of Penang

Bridge. **G Hotel Kelawai 2** Persiaran Maktab

10250 Penang, Malaysia Tel: +604 219 0000

www.ghotel.com.my





SOME CLOSURE, PLEASE

Van Cleef & Arpels shows off yet
another stunning Zip necklace.

By HO YUN KUAN





The zipper had humble beginnings in the 19th century as a fastening for boots. Never would it have made its way into high jewellery if not for Wallis Simpson, the Duchess of Windsor, who wanted to use its form as a necklace. In 1938, Simpson brought her suggestion to Renee Puissant, then the artistic director of Van Cleef & Arpels. It took the maison 12 years to turn the idea into reality. The first Zip necklace finally made its debut in 1950. Today, the Zip necklace remains an important part of Van Cleef & Arpels' collections. Shown here is the Zip Antique Sunflower Bleu necklace. A total of 194 diamonds, 140 baguette-cut blue and pink sapphires and 29 white cultured pearls form a colourful frame for the centre stone: a 2.08-carat round-cut pink sapphire from Madagascar.

www.vancleefarpels.com

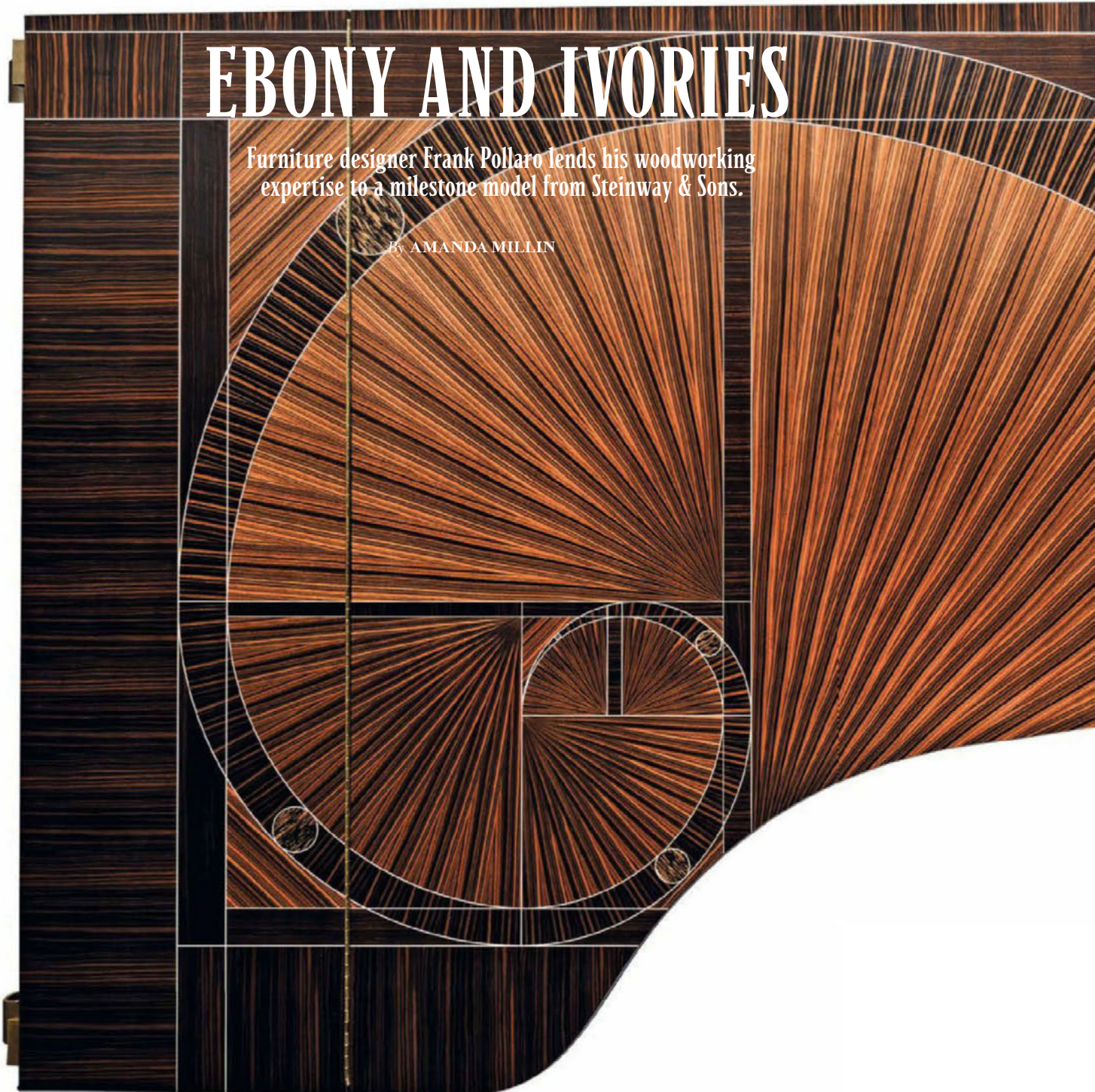


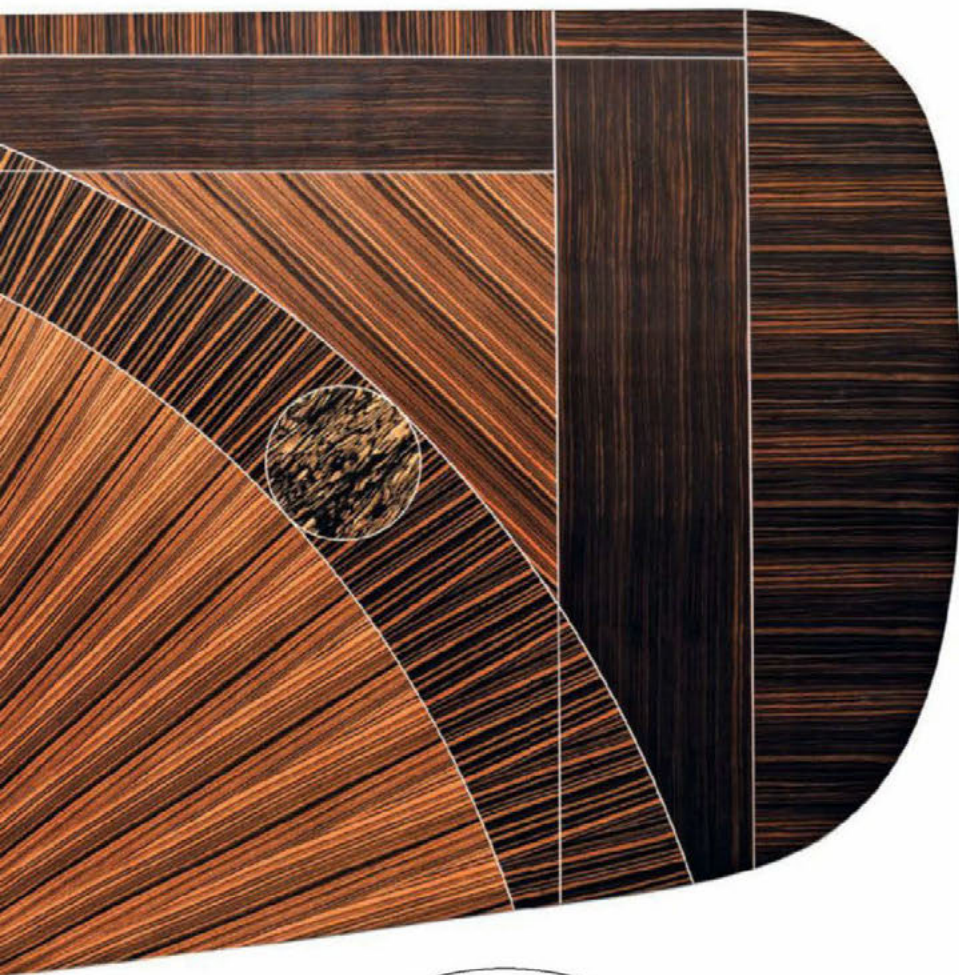


EBONY AND IVORIES

Furniture designer Frank Pollaro lends his woodworking expertise to a milestone model from Steinway & Sons.

By AMANDA MILLIN





Frank Pollaro spent four years creating the Fibonacci, his sixth design for Steinway & Sons.

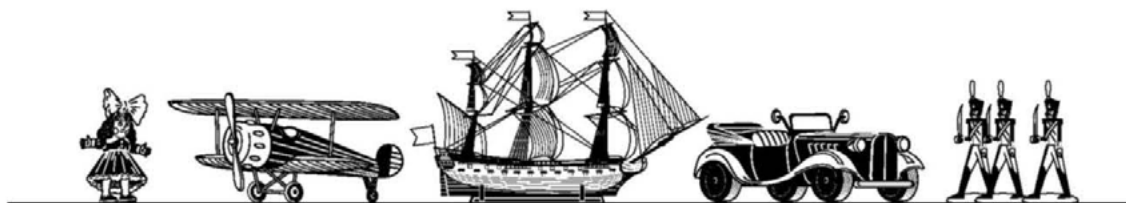
Inset photo CORDERO STUDIOS/CORDERO STUDIOS.COM



Over the past 15 or so years, Frank Pollaro – a New Jersey-based furniture designer known for his intricate wood inlays and marquetry work – has amassed what he believes is the world's largest collection of Macassar ebony. This rare, ornately streaked and naturally lustrous wood ranges in colour from medium brown to jet black. To create the veneer for this 2.7m-long Steinway & Sons grand piano, Pollaro used six logs from his collection of more than 500. "I love the formality of ebony," says Pollaro, who laid the veneer with synthetic ivory to evoke French designer Emile-Jacques Ruhlmann's art deco work from the 1920s. "I want the piano to become more interesting the closer you get to it, so you can't stop until you are right on top of it."

Dubbed the Fibonacci in reference to the spiral design that graces the top board and music rack, the piano is priced at US\$2.4 million (RM9.1 million). "(The Fibonacci) is a work of art," says Gavin English, the general manager of Steinway & Sons California. "It would be the crown jewel of any home, but there has to be enough room for the sound to breathe." eu.steinway.com





“ANYONE WHO
THINKS THE PEN
IS MIGHTIER
THAN THE SWORD
HAS NOT
BEEN STABBED
WITH BOTH.”

Lemony Snicket, *When Did You See Her Last?*

SWISS SALUTE

Caran d'Ache Spirit of Switzerland

By DOREEN TAN



In celebration of its 100th anniversary, Geneva-based Caran d'Ache has rolled out a limited-edition collection as a tribute to its home nation.

The Spirit of Switzerland collection is crafted on 100-per-cent solid silver and features iconic elements from Swiss culture, painstakingly carved on each writing instrument by a local jewellery craftsman.

Close inspection of the pen will reveal symbols such as wooden chalets, the Alpine horn and even a cheese fondue, all attributes that most recognise as quintessentially Swiss.

To top this masterpiece off, a rutile quartz, commonly dubbed Hair of Venus, sits on the tip of the cap and serves as a fitting crowning glory.

Only 100 pieces are available worldwide.
www.carandache.com



Friezes engraved with Swiss crosses form delicate borders at the far ends of each part of the pen.



FASHIONABLE FIZZ

Didier Ludot x Champagne Henri Giraud La Petite Robe Noire

By TIONG LI CHENG

Champagne is the fashionista's poison of choice with good reason. It's delicious, glamorous and readily brings to mind *Breakfast at Tiffany's* Holly Golightly at a soiree. Didier Ludot, Paris's most famous antiquarian of haute couture, worked with French grower champagne house Henri Giraud to produce the La Petite Robe Noire champagne box set.

A testament to Henri Giraud's efforts to return to the traditional taste of champagne, the Code Noir cuvee is made of 100-per-cent Pinot Noir.

Accompanying the bottle are two gold and black enamel flutes as well as a top hat box – a petite package as stylish as Golightly's Little Black Dress. Production is limited to only 2,360 bottles. www.sarmentwine.com

INVESTMENT FLATWARE

L'Ame de Christofle

By JASON LIM

The presentation of good food and fine wines can only be made better by a beautifully laid table, replete with delicate china and glistening cutlery.

Long has Christofle been in the business of crafting the finest tableware and its latest collection, L'Ame de Christofle, is no exception. An exemplar of elegant living, designer Eugeni Quitllet's range of flatware is a paragon of quiet simplicity.

Quitllet has taken humble stainless steel to dizzying heights with her minimal approach and finely chiselled edges – perfect accoutrements for all the dinner parties you will throw for the rest of your life.

www.christofle.com

IN DISTANT DEEPS

Breitling Superocean Chronograph M2000



By KENNETH TAN

The fact that this chronograph is the only one in the world that remains fully water-resistant and functional at 2,000m is stunning in itself. The secret lies in a patented magnetic push-piece system, which employs the case's metal to initiate the chronograph. It also eliminates, entirely, the risk of water seepage.

First released as the Superocean Chronograph M2000, this timepiece is now available in a 250-piece limited edition (RM18,090) in satin-brushed steel with carbon treatment for greater resistance. A luminescent coating on the oversized hands and hour markers offers legibility in unforgiving circumstances.

A built-in decompression valve on the case is also strengthened by a four-millimetre-thick glare-proof sapphire crystal. Finally, to guarantee unsurpassed precision, this timepiece is equipped with a SuperQuartz movement certified by the Swiss Official Chronometer Testing Institute (COSC), giving it an accuracy that is 10 times greater than regular quartz. www.breitling.com

POLE POSITION

Chopard Mille Miglia Race Edition

By JASON LIM

For 33 years and 53,000km, Chopard has been the official timekeeper for what Enzo Ferrari has described as the most beautiful race in the world. Starting in Brescia and ending in Rome, Mille Miglia covers a distance of 1,610km and tests the endurance of classic cars with a manufacture date of no younger than 1957.

The Chopard Mille Miglia Race Edition is 2015's ode to this remarkable collaboration. A stunning 43mm case (1,000 pieces in stainless steel, 100 in rose gold) houses the COSC-certified Chopard Calibre 01.08-C, a self-winding in-house movement built for extreme precision. www.chopard.com 

REIGN OF KINGS

Emperor's Fine Jewels



By RENYI LIM

As an established authority on fine jewellery with 15 years of experience as a major buyer of diamonds and precious stones, perhaps it was only a matter of time before Nitin Goenka founded Emperor's Fine Jewels and turned his hand to designing his own incomparable jewels.

The brand's boutique in Starhill Gallery displays Goenka's exquisitely crafted

pieces, all of which are refreshingly light and comfortable, yet command maximum impact at any prestigious event. Its summer 2015 collection, Sundance, is inspired by the sun's rays and takes the form of intricate

necklaces, earrings and cocktail rings of yellow and white gold and diamonds – splendid showpieces for the most lavish of parties.

emperorsfinejewels.com



GRAB AND GO

Ermenegildo Zegna Young Urban Males briefcase



By ANDREA SIM

Designed with the Generation Y male in mind, Ermenegildo Zegna's new Young Urban Males (YUM) briefcase (\$1,595) caters to the technologically driven. The YUM briefcase is the refined solution to storing all those necessary bits and bobs that seem to accompany any dapper gent who owns more gadgets than he can keep track of. Crafted from natural-grained calfleather in navy, burgundy, mahogany brown and dark mustard, its slim, lightweight

body and single-gusset design maintains a streamlined silhouette.

The interior impresses with its multitude of compartments: there are designated slots for laptops, smartphones, chargers, cards and pens. Featuring a retractable handle and a sleek, chrome lock closure with the brand's logo inscribed discreetly, its fuss-free design echoes the experience Ermenegildo Zegna aims to provide for the sharply dressed young male in the urban jungle. www.zegna.com

PERFECT BALANCE

Poul Henningsen PH $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ copper table lamp

By REBECCA MORRIS



Whether you're a devotee of Poul Henningsen, or new to the work of the celebrated 20th-century Danish lighting designer known simply as PH, you're running out of time to acquire a contemporary version of his acclaimed PH $3\frac{1}{2}$ -3 table lamp design of 1929.

Warm materials are de rigueur in interior design now and the 45cm lamp is produced in copper. The reissue of this famous work is available through Louis Poulsen – but final orders must be made by 31 August.

One of the lamp's two top shades is made from opal

glass, which works with the two bottom glass shades to emit a soft, diffuse light, while the polished solid copper top shade with a white painted inner surface directs light softly down onto the table top.

The PH $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ copper table lamp has a high-gloss exterior, but Louis Poulsen has opted not to surface treat or lacquer the metal, instead leaving it to develop a patina unique to its setting. As further evidence of this being a special home accessory, each lamp is provided with a pair of white cotton gloves to avoid fingerprints during installation. www.louispoulsen.com

HOROLOGICAL MENAGERIE

Les Exclusifs de Breguet

By KENNETH TAN

The art of enamelling, as ancient almost as human civilisation, retains a timeless lustre. Its hypnotic, precious effect is largely credited to a metier that challenges resources, human patience and imagination. Considered one of the riskiest of the high arts, enamelling involves tempering the tempestuous fire of ovens in baking the dials, and understanding the delicate nature of powdered glass which constitutes enamel.

In the latest of Breguet's boutique-exclusive timepieces, Les Exclusifs de Breguet (RM171,000, \$61,000), pearlescent enamel becomes the canvas for artistic triumph. Upon this serene white background, Breguet's artists have painted 12 distinct oriental vistas, each of which is marked by a single animal from the Chinese zodiac. www.breguet.com

The Dragon and Rat reference from Les Exclusifs de Breguet.

Photo KENNETH FOO

SOUNDS LIKE A WINNER

T+A HV range



By HO YUN KUAN



Do not be fooled by the innocuous and rather unimaginative name of T+A's HV range. HV stands for high voltage and this is the secret to the range's high-performance quality. Driven at higher voltages in the preamplifier and output segments than normally used in similar products, the HV amplifiers produce extremely linear sound with very low distortion. Within the full aluminium shell of the equipment, separate compartments keep each section of the internal electronics – such as the power supplies for analogue and digital circuitry, the controls and the DAC board – carefully apart. Clear separation is again integral to producing good, clean sound.

Of course, a sound system is not complete without good speakers and nothing rises to the occasion better than the CWT 2000SE, the flagship model of T+A's Solitaire loudspeaker range. On each side of its 1.58m enclosure are 250mm bass drivers fitted with aluminium rods that cancel out any forces generated by the sound. The result is bass notes that, if played from a high-quality recording, are beautifully detailed. www.clarityhifi.net



ROARING FIFTIES

Berluti limited-edition collection with lion tattoo



By ANDREA SIM

Parisian leather connoisseur Berluti commemorates 50 years of Singapore's independence with a limited-edition collection of exotic leather products emblazoned with a tattoo of the country's national icon. It's a fitting extension of a special technique that Berluti introduced and perfected in 2003 to encourage further personalisation.

The new products include the brand's iconic Un

Jour briefcase in Venezia leather (\$7,900), and customers are given free reign with choice of patina. Crafted with the gentleman's day in mind, it's the perfect business companion with its tastefully gradated leather and muted brass hardware. The magnificently maned feline tattooed in the corner speaks volumes – making a patriotic statement and giving the bag a fierce edge over its more generic counterparts. www.berluti.com

BRAND NEW YOU

Stephen Price guarantees that you will return from your holiday changed for the better, and remain that way.



By HO YUN KUAN

UK-based wellness guru Stephen Price of SP&Co is not a believer of the guilt-motivated crash diet that we get sucked into every January. Instead, he advises: “Ten per cent better choices over 12 months is miles better than revamping everything in three weeks, then returning to your normal routine.”

Which is why his Lux Me Wellness Concierge Service, launched in conjunction with Lux Resorts & Hotels’ properties in Mauritius and Maldives, seems such a contradiction. After all, a holiday is short-lived, and one can’t always enjoy yoga with a beach view back home.

With Price, however, the experience can start before the holiday and continue after it. UK-based clients may visit him at his clinic in Chelsea, but for international guests, Price will familiarise himself with the client’s goals and preferences via email or phone. Upon arrival at the resort, a private consultation will determine the customised itinerary that best suits the client’s aims. Throughout the process, Price will provide tips on adapting newly learnt habits in daily life. And if you find your resolve weakening post-holiday, you’re always welcome at Price’s clinic. www.spandco.co.uk



Illustration OLEG KOSYKH

OFF THE BLOCK

We keep you up-to-date on the hottest lots under the hammer.

By RENYI LIM



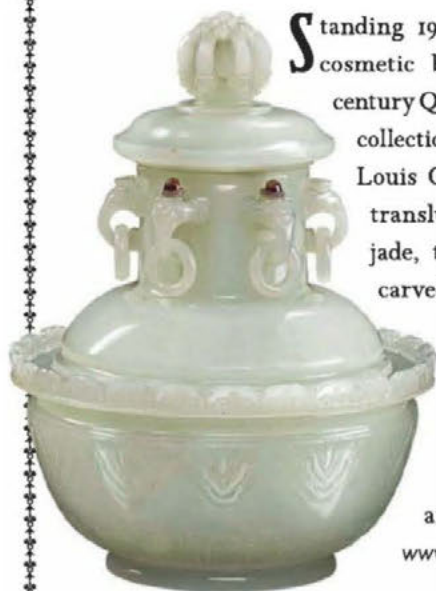
Untitled by Keith Haring

Auctioned by Sotheby's on 11 June in Hong Kong for HK\$4.16 million (\$720,000).

Fetching four times its pre-sale estimate at Sotheby's Boundless: Contemporary Art auction, this piece by American artist and social activist Keith Haring previously remained under Japanese ownership. *Untitled* exemplifies Haring's affinity for using hieroglyphic forms, calligraphic images and simple shapes. www.sothebys.com

Chinese Qing Dynasty White Jade Bowl and Cover

Auctioned by Christie's on 9 June in Paris for €3 million (\$4 million).



Standing 19cm tall, this traditional cosmetic box from China's 18th-century Qing dynasty hails from the collection of Baron Jean-Baptiste-Louis Gros. Crafted from semi-translucent, even-toned white jade, the bowl features finely carved lotus petals and lingzhi-shaped leaves, while the domed cover is decorated with six elephant heads, suspended loose rings, deep red glass beads and an openwork vajra finial.

www.christies.com

Balloon Girl by Banksy

Auctioned by Bonhams on 17 June in London for £52,500 (\$111,000).

One of the most sought-after screenprints by Banksy, *Balloon Girl's* reappearance at auction since 2011 offered collectors a rare chance to get their hands on the work of one of Britain's most intriguing art



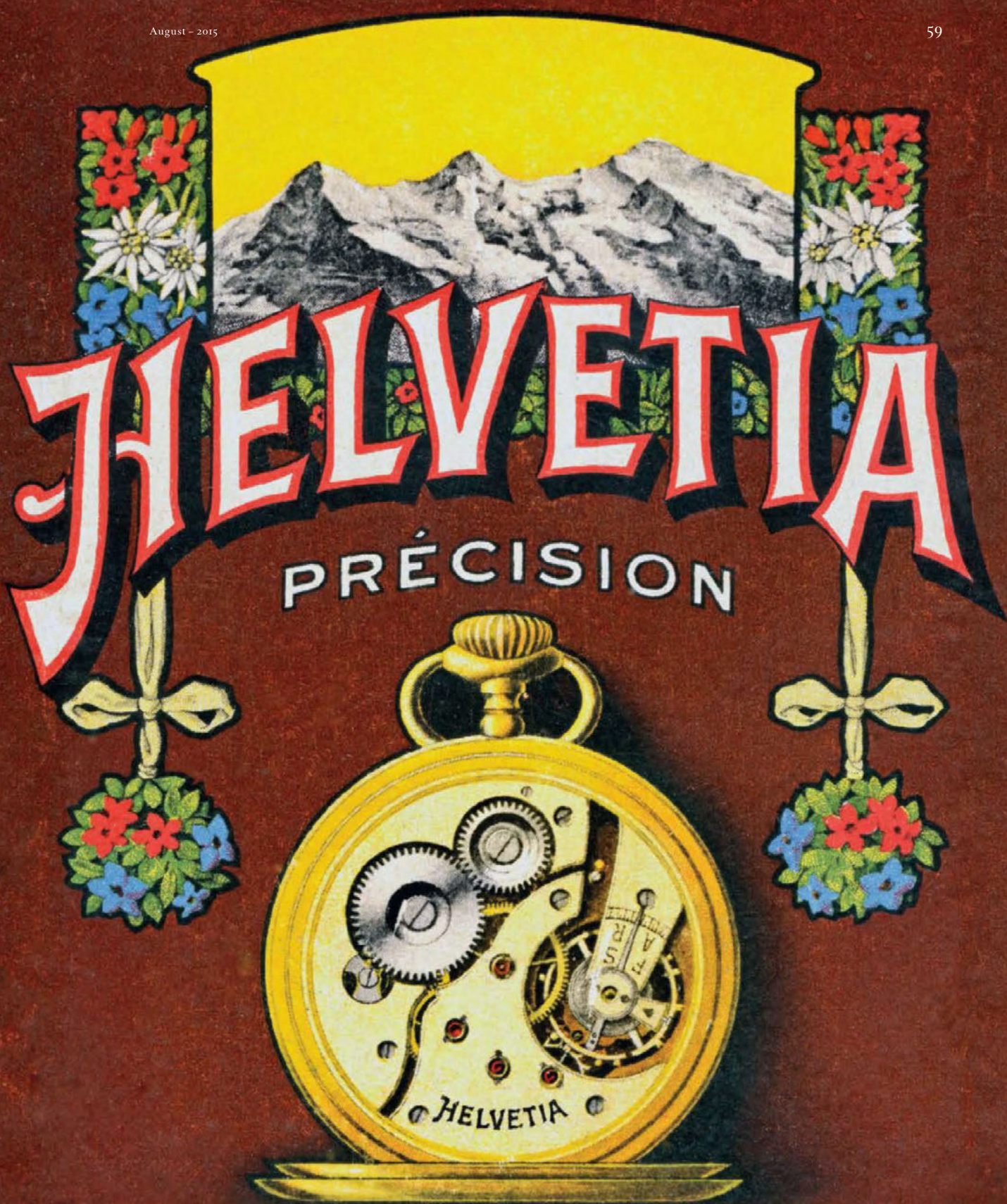
figures. The screenprint is signed, dated and inscribed in pencil. As proof of the work's authenticity, the 65.9 by 49.9cm sheet is accompanied by a Pest Control Office certificate. www.bonhams.com



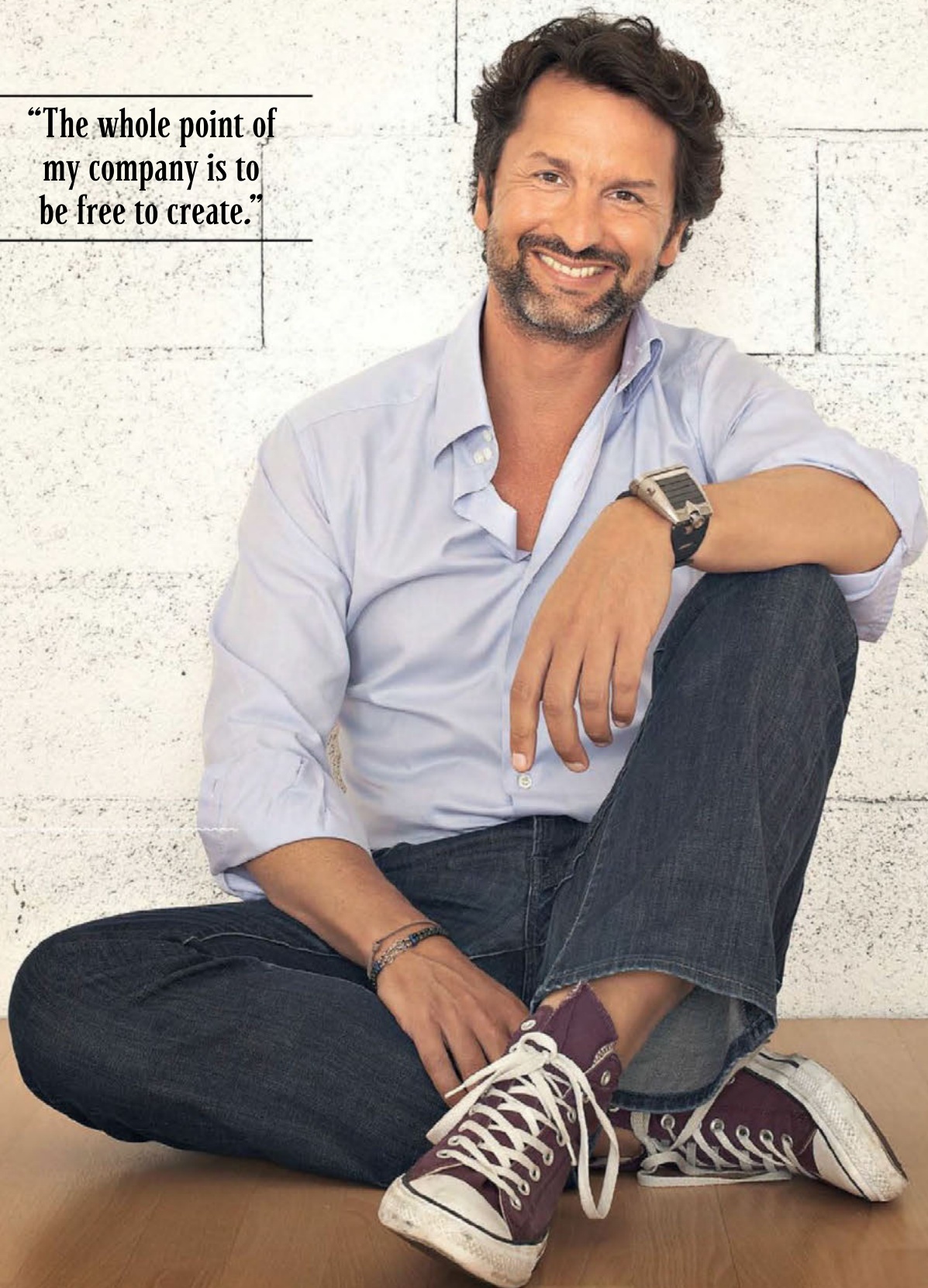
HAUTE HORLOGERIE

**“IN FOOTBALL
AS IN
WATCHMAKING,
TALENT AND
ELEGANCE
MEAN NOTHING
WITHOUT RIGOUR
AND PRECISION.”**

Lionel Messi



“The whole point of
my company is to
be free to create.”





CAUSE AND EFFECT

The time of the independent watchmaker is now.

By JASON LIM

In a rare moment of fortuity and impeccable timing, *Robb Report* spoke to three independent watchmakers for a tete-a-tete on flying solo. Extolling the virtues of creative freedom, they are acolytes of a new order in which integrity and purity of vision matter more than wild commercial success. Maximilian Busser (founder of MB&F), Felix Baumgartner (co-founder of Urwerk) and Alessandro Zanetta (sales director and son of De Bethune co-founder, David) have all made it their impassioned mission to rock the boat of tradition.

Working with talented independent watchmakers on Harry Winston's innovative and revolutionary Opus series of timepieces gave Maximilian Busser the greatest satisfaction.



Felix Baumgartner and Martin Frei (inset) launched the first Urwerk models – the UR-101 and UR-102 – at Baselworld in 1997.

Baumgartner's own charge with his 15-year-old company, Urwerk, is to marry modern innovation with traditional watchmaking.

"A promise I made myself when I started my company 10 years ago was that I would never take on a financial shareholder. This was one of the most important things to me because the whole point of my company is to be free to create," explains Busser, who, after an illustrious career at haute horology stalwarts Jaeger-LeCoultre and Harry Winston, founded MB&F (www.mbandf.com) in 2005. By the end of its 10th year, MB&F will have created 11 of its own calibres – a remarkable feat considering

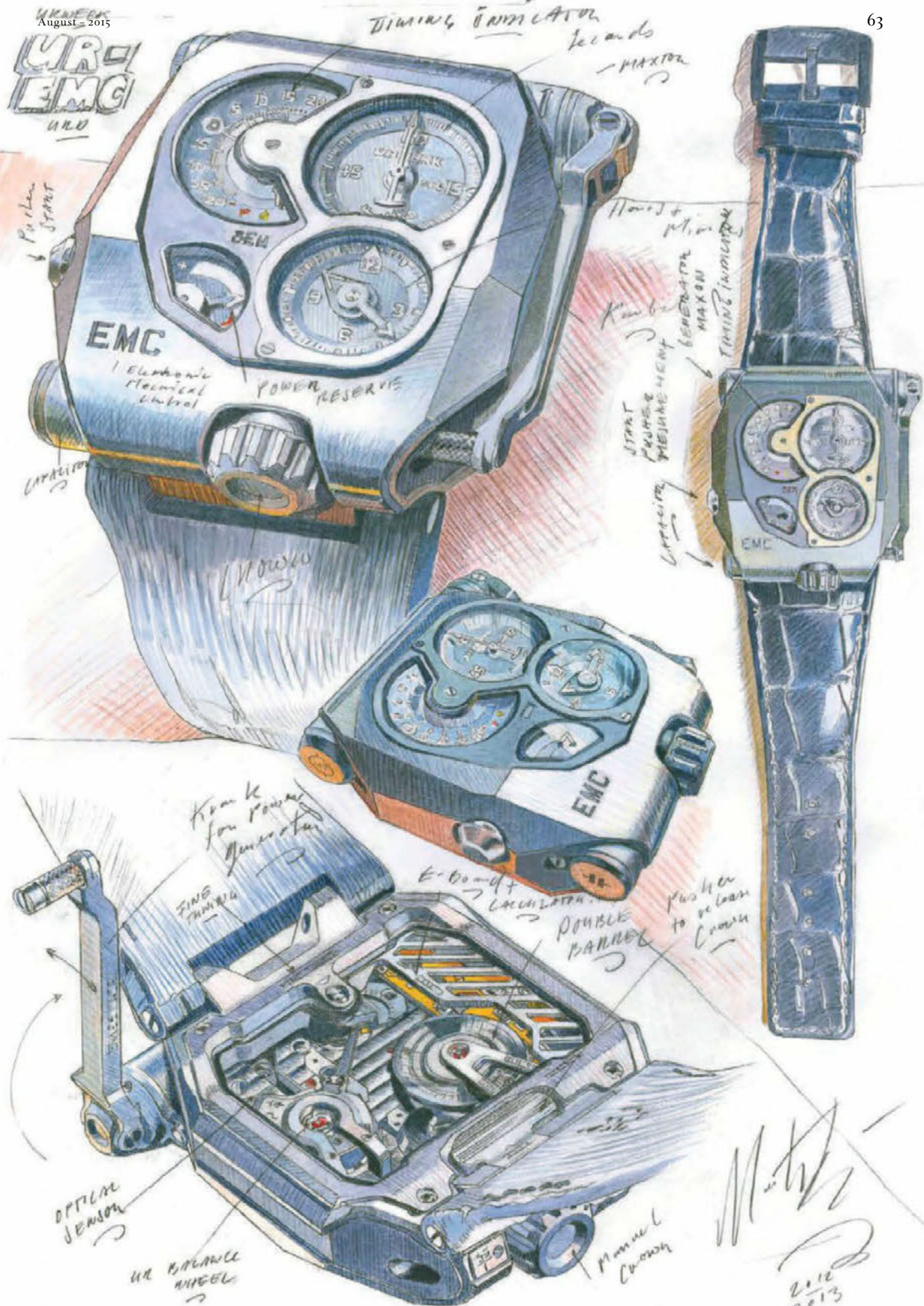


much older brands that have only just begun creating their own in-house movements.

Baumgartner's own charge with his 15-year-old company, Urwerk (www.urwerk.com), is to marry modern innovation with traditional watchmaking. While Baumgartner is a third-generation watchmaker (his father still restores old clocks), his co-founder, Martin Frei, was an artist and designer with no prior history in the business. But it is this lack of experience that ensures

August 2015

63



limitless creativity. Urwerk means original accomplishment in German, and every watch that leaves the manufacture proudly bears that tag.

The award-winning EMC (Electro Mechanical Control) took the Mechanical Exception and Innovation prizes at the 2014 Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Geneve. "It opened a new chapter: the EMC is all about mechanical precision being served by electronics," describes Baumgartner with a look of paternal pride. "Every watch is like a child – it is difficult to choose a favourite but I am exceptionally proud of this one."

The youngest of the trio, Zanetta offers some insight into the aesthetics of the three brands, which can be described as challenging. "It's hard for the layman to understand our watches, especially someone



"It's hard for the layman to understand our watches, especially someone new to the world of horology."




From above:
MB&F's LM101
Frost Limited
Edition is a new
rendition of the
brand's Legacy
Machine (LM)
101 model;
DW5 from De
Bethune's Dream
Watch collection.



new to the world of horology. What needs to happen is to take some time to feel and interact with our pieces and to listen to our stories." His father, David, along with De Bethune (www.debethune.ch) co-founder, Denis Flageollet, have amassed an astounding portfolio of nine patent registrations, 17 world-premier innovations and 15 in-house calibres in just 10 years. But it is constant innovation that drives young Zanetta. "My favourite watch is the one yet to come. The watches of the future are what satisfy us, and it is the spirit of invention that keeps us alive," he says.

"We are the 0.1 per cent of the industry who take enormous creative risks," Busser chimes in.

The trio may be competitors fighting for a niche share of the market, but what brings them together is the ambition to **change** what is known. The **three** are malcontent generals of a **revolution** that challenges the rigid **traditions** of the ancient world of **horology**.

"If everyone liked what we did, then we would be just like the others," says Busser. "At the entrance to my factory I have an old Greek saying. It's a thing the Athenians would say during the Persian Wars and it's become something of a personal motto. It states: 'I prefer to die free than to live a slave.'" 

From left: Maximilian Busser, Alessandro Zanetta and Felix Baumgartner.

Below:
Urwerk EMC Altin.



HAUTE HORLOGERIE

CRAFTING LEGENDS

Patek Philippe offers a lesson in longevity.

By KENNETH TAN

The foremost watchmaking name at auction houses across the world, Patek Philippe has long enthralled connoisseurs with an enigmatic blend of craftsmanship, rarity and quality. Last year, at its 175th anniversary, the brand burnished its reputation with an astounding array of timepieces including the 20-complication coup de grace, the Grandmaster Chime Ref 5175.

Philip Barat, Patek Philippe's head of development, who visited Singapore for the 175th anniversary celebration, points to lessons learnt every day. "We have to be very modest because each year, we bring new pieces into the world. And we have to take care of each one like a child. Changing a single screw, lever, material or just applying a different finishing may alter reliability so there are always plenty of checks and tests which we perform."

That there is so much design going into Patek Philippe timepieces means even more gruelling tests to guarantee perfectly working timepieces. "In a small space and

This and facing pages: the Ref 5370 has been described as "the split-seconds chronograph for men who take accuracy seriously".

with tiny mechanisms, we have to be careful to ensure timekeeping precision." Case in point: this year's Split Seconds Chronograph Ref 5370 which features the new CHR 29-535 PS calibre – with the R denoting a *rattrapante* (split-seconds) function. The instant when lap times are stopped, a new isolator uncouples the split-seconds wheel from the whirring chronograph wheel – thereby eliminating any friction and disruption to the balance amplitude. Then, lavish hand-finishing on these parts confers an ineffable sparkle of emotion, amply showcased by sapphire crystal on the back of its platinum 950 case.

"We know how to do it," Barat says, alluding to the creation of new references.

"We have a great museum to visit for inspiration – and there are many ideas from other brands which we find interesting including independent watchmakers who come up with some extraordinary timepieces. But most importantly, there needs to be a lot of humility and honesty in asking ourselves to always be better."

www.patek.com





This year's Split Seconds Chronograph Ref 5370 features the new CHR 29-535 PS calibre - with the R denoting a rattrapante (split-seconds) function.

RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME

Audemars Piguet wants the world to know that there is more to the brand than its iconic Royal Oak.

The new 2,400sqm complex will include exhibition spaces, where nearly 400 watches will be on display.



By KENNETH TAN

Sebastian Vivas, Audemars Piguet's heritage and museum director, describes the brand's new museum as a dream project. "It will be my life's greatest achievement when we complete it," he says. The museum will be housed in a new building, which will reflect the brand's underlying value of mastering the rules and then breaking them. "That has become the philosophy of the project."

Without doubt, the retro-modern architecture of the museum stands out in the quaint township of Le Brassus among the mountains of Vallee de Joux. The first half of the complex is a futuristic construction of a sunken spiral pavilion of curved glass supporting a roof (that in turn has to support up to two metres of snow). The second half of the complex, however, houses the original building in which founders Jules Louis

The retro-modern architecture of the museum stands out in the quaint township of Le Brassus among the mountains of Vallee de Joux.



Visitors will get a chance to share the brand's passion for watchmaking at the new complex. Below: Sebastian Vivas.



“It was extraordinary, bordering on the idea of impossible, and ... this is exactly what we wanted.”

Audemars and Edward Auguste Piguet laboured to create their many horological triumphs in the late 19th century.

In the process of curating and building the 1,300-strong timepiece collection for this eventual museum, Vivas has gathered a repository of stories to go with the exhibits. One, which is linked to the founders, harks back to their ‘school watch’ – the piece de resistance that enabled them to graduate from watchmaking school. “Can you imagine that at barely 21, they were already able to construct a perpetual calendar and minute repeater on their own?” Vivas asks.

As for the museum, which is estimated to be completed in 2018, Vivas is wistful when he recalls the day that the design of Danish architecture firm BIG was selected.



“I had received the five shortlisted designs via email. The first looked like it could be a nice museum, the second was more interesting, the third was okay and the fourth had a very strong design but didn’t seem to reflect our values.

“I was thinking that if the fifth one didn’t work, we may not have a museum,” Vivas adds.

“I opened the document and I couldn’t do anything other than smile. It was extraordinary, bordering on the idea of impossible, and it was absolutely clear in two seconds, that this is exactly what we wanted.”

www.audemarspiguet.com

A. LANGE & SÖHNE
GLASHÜTTE I/SA

Φ
BAUME & MERCIER
MAISON D'HORLOGERIE GENEVE 1830

Cartier

IWC
SCHAFFHAUSEN

⌚
JAEGER-LECOULTRE

MONT
BLANC

PANERAI

PIAGET

RICHARD MILLE

⌚
ROGER DUBUIS
HORLOGER GENEVOIS

✱
VACHERON CONSTANTIN
Manufacture Horlogère - Genève, depuis 1755

Van Cleef & Arpels



WATCHES & WONDERS

THE
HAUTE HORLOGERIE
EXHIBITION IN ASIA
30 SEPTEMBER - 3 OCTOBER 2015

HKCEC - Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Supported by:  HONG KONG
TOURISM BOARD



www.watchesandwonders.com

A GOOD TURN

Or six – Harry Winston's Histoire de Tourbillon series has come a long way since its debut in 2009.

By SU JIA XIAN

A series of wristwatches featuring the most exotic of tourbillons and avant-garde time displays, the Histoire de Tourbillon was conceived by Harry Winston as an adventure into the art of the tourbillon, starting with the first edition in 2009. From multiple tourbillons in a single watch to multi-axis versions, the Histoire de Tourbillon series has done it all – packaged in extraordinary cases made of exotic materials such as Zaliu, a lightweight zirconium alloy. All these outrageous ideas came from the most eminent of creators: the Histoire de Tourbillon movements are engineered by CompliTime, the sister company of tourbillon specialist Greubel Forsey. By nature of its complexity, a Histoire de Tourbillon wristwatch is unusually rare – only 20 examples of each edition are made.

Harry Winston opened his first boutique in New York in 1932. The brand began its watchmaking history in 1989, 11 years after his passing.

Photo FRED WARD/CORBIS

HISTOIRE DE TOURBILLON

1 Introduced in 2009, Histoire de Tourbillon I set the tone for the rest of the series. It was equipped with a pair of tourbillons, each inclined at 25 degrees and spinning at 36 seconds per rotation (compared to the more common 60-second rotation). Mounted on an empty plane under the sapphire crystal, the tourbillons provide an engagingly visual method of compensating for the effects of gravity, regardless of the position of the wrist. More about the complexity of the movement than time-telling, the Histoire de Tourbillon I had only a single hand on the front, showing the hours and approximately, the minutes. On the back, however, three sub-dials indicate the time precisely to the second.

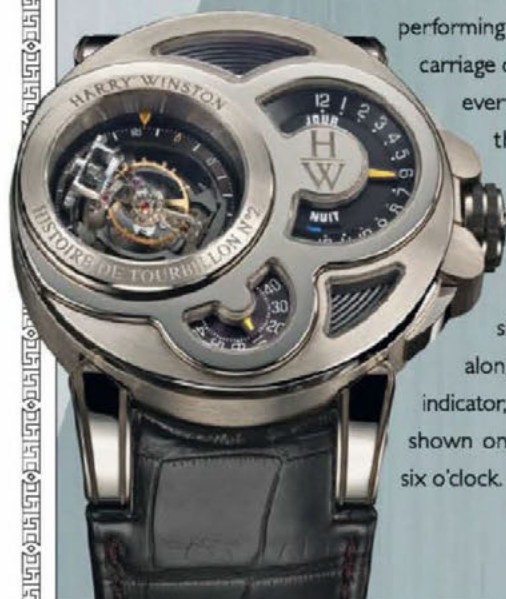


From multiple tourbillons in a single watch to multi-axis versions, the Histoire de Tourbillon series has done it all.

2 Equipped with a single tourbillon rotating on two axes, the Histoire de Tourbillon 2 was fitted with eight sapphire crystals to accommodate the sub-dials and segmented displays that house the movement and time indication.

The biaxial tourbillon sits at nine o'clock, performing a dance with its outer carriage completing a rotation every two minutes, while the inner carriage turns at 40 seconds per revolution.

To the right of the tourbillon sits the hour sub-dial, along with a day and night indicator, while the minutes are shown on a smaller display at six o'clock.



3 The most radically shaped watch of the series, Histoire de Tourbillon 3 was presented in an oblong white gold and Zanium case measuring 65mm in diameter. This massive case was necessary to accommodate the twin tourbillon regulators in the movement: one a biaxial tourbillon like that found on Histoire de Tourbillon 2, and the other a single-axis tourbillon with a rapid 36-second rate of revolution. Hours and minutes are displayed separately on the top right of the case, with the power reserve indicated by a disc set with baguette-cut blue sapphires and citrines.



4 The first triaxial tourbillon found in a Harry Winston wristwatch, the tourbillon inside the Histoire de Tourbillon 4 is equipped with three concentric cages. Each is set at different angles and rotates at different speeds: 45 seconds for the innermost, 75 seconds for the intermediate and a leisurely 300 seconds for the outermost cage. In another first, the movement of the timepiece has its base plate and bridges machined from titanium for lightness and corrosion resistance.

The time display has the hours at two o'clock and minutes at nine.



5 Equipped with a triaxial tourbillon just like the fourth, the Histoire de Tourbillon 5 revamps the aesthetics of the movement. The tourbillon sits at nine o'clock under a sapphire dome, with the hours and minutes symmetrically arranged to its right. The movement bridges have been open-worked, while the discs of the time display are skeletonised, revealing the gears and wheels below. Histoire de Tourbillon 5 also enjoys the distinction of being the first edition of the series to have a rose gold case.



Histoire de Tourbillon 5 is the first edition in the series to have a rose gold case.

6 The most complicated timepiece of the series, Histoire de Tourbillon 6 is powered by a movement that comprises 683 components. That complexity is driven by function, for this sixth edition not only tells the time, but also records it with the hour and minute counter at three o'clock. Equipped with a regulating organ of its own, the counter can be started with the blue ceramic pusher at two o'clock. Once started, the karussell – a rotating oscillator at one o'clock – instantly begins turning, making two revolutions every minute while regulating the hour and minute counter. Besides elapsed time, the counter can also serve as a second time zone display since its hands can be set independently via the crown at three o'clock. At eight o'clock is a triaxial tourbillon like that found in earlier editions of the Histoire de Tourbillon. www.harrywinston.com



August - 2015

75

HEART-TO-HEART

Movers and shakers from some of the world's top manufactures give *Robb Report* an insider's look into high watchmaking.

Clockwise
from above:
Carole Kasapi;
Jerome Lambert;
Angelo Bonati;
Daniel Riedo;
Kurt Klaus.

By KENNETH TAN

Illustrations LESHA KURBATOV

HAUTE HORLOGERIE

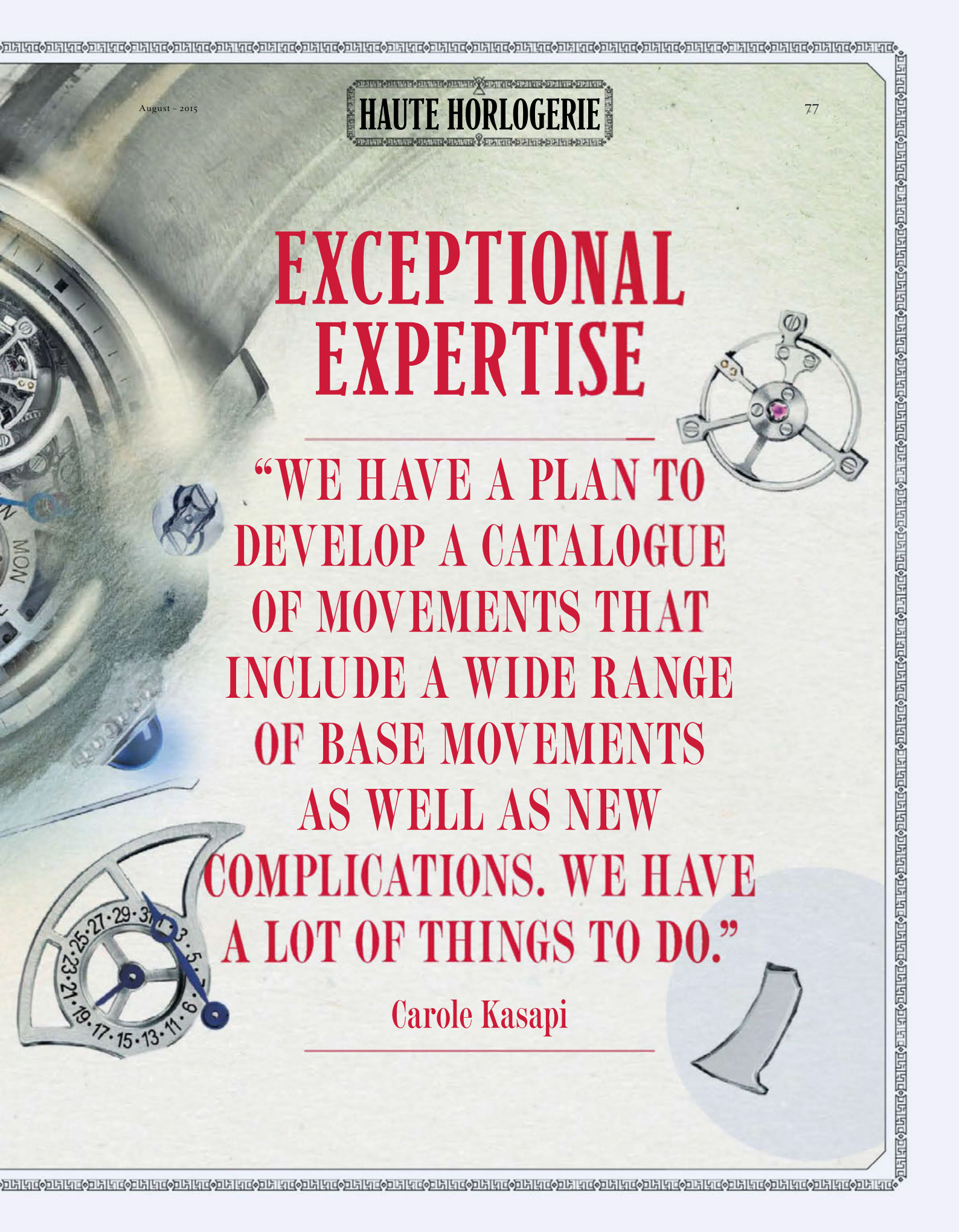
Robb Report

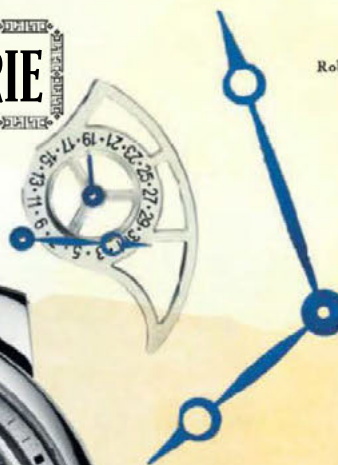


EXCEPTIONAL EXPERTISE

“WE HAVE A PLAN TO
DEVELOP A CATALOGUE
OF MOVEMENTS THAT
INCLUDE A WIDE RANGE
OF BASE MOVEMENTS
AS WELL AS NEW
COMPLICATIONS. WE HAVE
A LOT OF THINGS TO DO.”

Carole Kasapi





For the redoubtable Carole Kasapi, who heads Cartier's Movement Creation department, building timepieces begins with understanding that technique is at the service of the aesthetic. This philosophy brings with it some challenges. Case in point: this year's Rondo de Cartier Astrotourbillon Skeleton. Kasapi estimates that the act of skeletonising the movement on this timepiece – by polishing and shaving off non-essential material on the bridges and plates – easily removed half of the total material.

To ensure performance was not compromised, computer simulation provided readings on shock resistance. German silver was used instead of regular brass to give individual components and the movement greater solidity and resistance. "It is more difficult to manufacture and polish German silver, but the change in material improves its formation greatly," Kasapi explains.

This year's premiere of the Rondo de Cartier Grande Complication highlighted the effectiveness of this process. "We wanted to realise a complicated movement dedicated to connoisseurs and collectors," says Kasapi. To keep it in the classical realm, one of the overarching objectives was to produce a



Sophistication comes in the form of three high complications powered by the automatic 9406MC calibre, all of which are contained within a 45mm platinum case.

slim movement. The result: Cartier's most complex watch calibre, the 9406 MC, which comprises 578 components and took five years to develop. And yet, its thickness is only 5.49mm. It also possesses three high complications, namely the perpetual calendar, minute repeater and flying tourbillon.

Grand complications – a combination of at least three high complications – are considerably thicker and usually manually wound. However, this latest reference from Cartier is a svelte 12.6mm. Its automatic calibre also bears the Poinçon de Genève certification, a quality hallmark extended to a mere 0.008 per cent of the 30 million Swiss timepieces made every year. And, when the minute repeater is activated, one picks up an audibly higher quality of resonance and sound – the result of Cartier's deep study of acoustic harmonics. These technical breakthroughs are the fruits of a concentrated focus by its watchmaking department. As for Kasapi, her job is to move the team toward even more innovation. "We have a plan to develop a catalogue of movements that includes a wide range of base movements as well as new complications," she says and, with a pause, adds: "We have a lot of things to do." www.cartier.com

THE PODIUM LOUNGE / 2015

SINGAPORE

Presented by:



FRIDAY 18, SATURDAY 19, SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

The Ultimate A-List Party for the Racing Community

General Admission:

(Pre Sale / *nett per person)

\$188*

\$360* with a bottle of Bollinger Champagne

VIP Table Bookings:

(*nett per night)

\$1,588 for 4 pax - \$28,888 for 25 pax

Line Up:

FRI 18 - **KRISTIAN NAIRN**

aka HODOR from *GAME OF THRONES*

SAT 19 - **FIERCE ANGEL**

Mark Doyle - Creator of *HED KANDI*

Soraya Vivian on Vocals

Lady V on Sax

SUN 20 - **8KY 6LU**

from the Duo *LMFAO*

Venue:

The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore

Grand Ballroom - Level 1

Time:

10pm till late

Dress:

Elegant Chic

Guest Host:

Alex Yoong

Former F1 Driver & Fox Sports Asia F1 Presenter

Fashion Circuit:

by Style Icon Carol Chen // Covetella

Art Showcase:

Andy Warhol Exhibition by Galeries Bartoux

Reservations of tickets & VIP tables via: vip@podiumlounge.com // +65 94595211

WWW.PODIUMLOUNGE.COM/SG



COVETELLA



PANDORA
UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS



PERONI
ITALY



S. PELLEGRINO

LIVING

PRESTIGE



AUGUSTMAN



JETGALA

L'OFFICIEL

PALACE

WOW



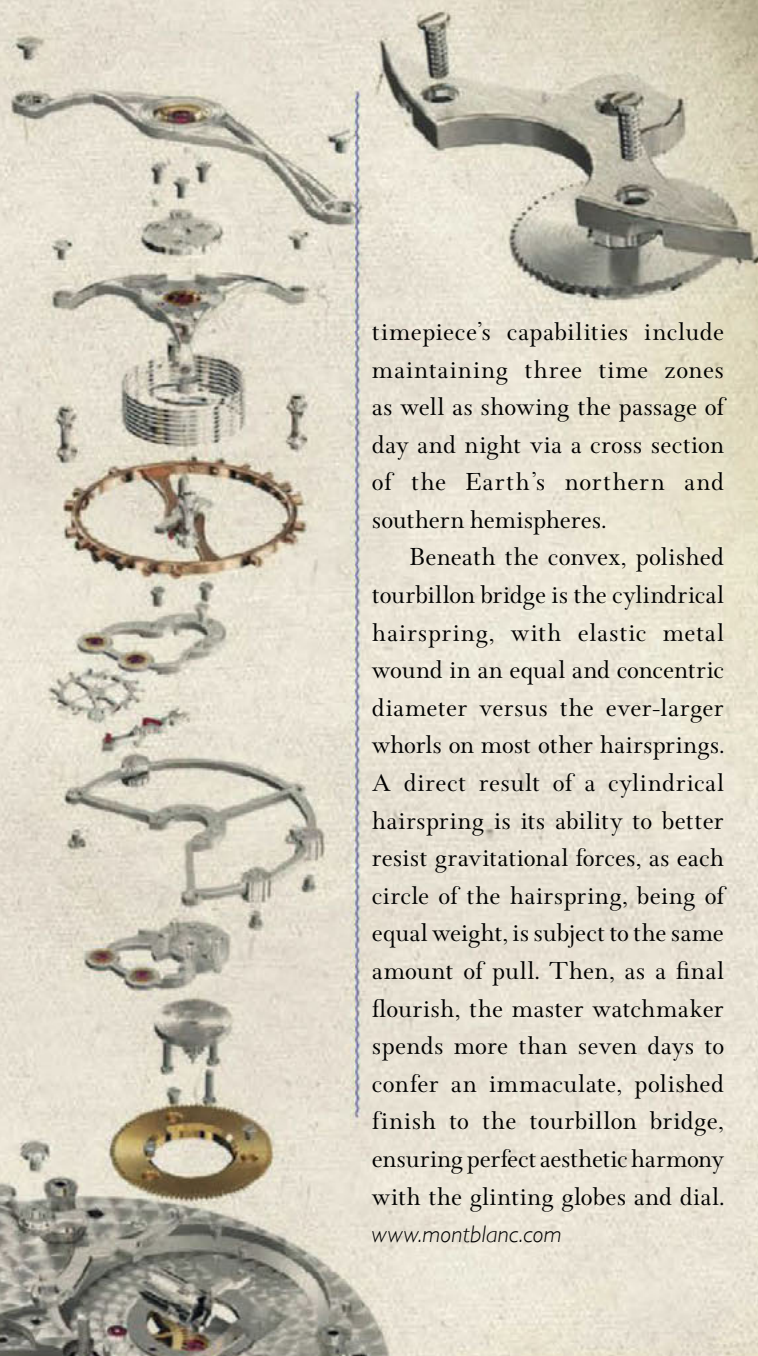
ABU DHABI | MELBOURNE | MONACO | SINGAPORE

A NEW OPUS

The frequently exalted haute horlogerie qualities of heritage and innovation come together in this year's Montblanc Tourbillon Cylindrique Geospheres Vasco da Gama. Championed by its 157-year-old Villeret manufacture, Montblanc has combined the elements of world time and cylindrical hairsprings – usually reserved for only the finest marine chronometers – into 18 limited-edition and evocative pieces.

Montblanc's CEO Jerome Lambert, who followed the timepiece's development every step of the way, likens it to a continuous level of achievement. "At the maison, we want to single ourselves out through technical performance, to share our passion for fine watchmaking," he says. "But even I was positively surprised with the case, dial and to see it finished on a wrist. It really captured our technical abilities."

Being right on the money, this



timepiece's capabilities include maintaining three time zones as well as showing the passage of day and night via a cross section of the Earth's northern and southern hemispheres.

Beneath the convex, polished tourbillon bridge is the cylindrical hairspring, with elastic metal wound in an equal and concentric diameter versus the ever-larger whorls on most other hairsprings. A direct result of a cylindrical hairspring is its ability to better resist gravitational forces, as each circle of the hairspring, being of equal weight, is subject to the same amount of pull. Then, as a final flourish, the master watchmaker spends more than seven days to confer an immaculate, polished finish to the tourbillon bridge, ensuring perfect aesthetic harmony with the glinting globes and dial.

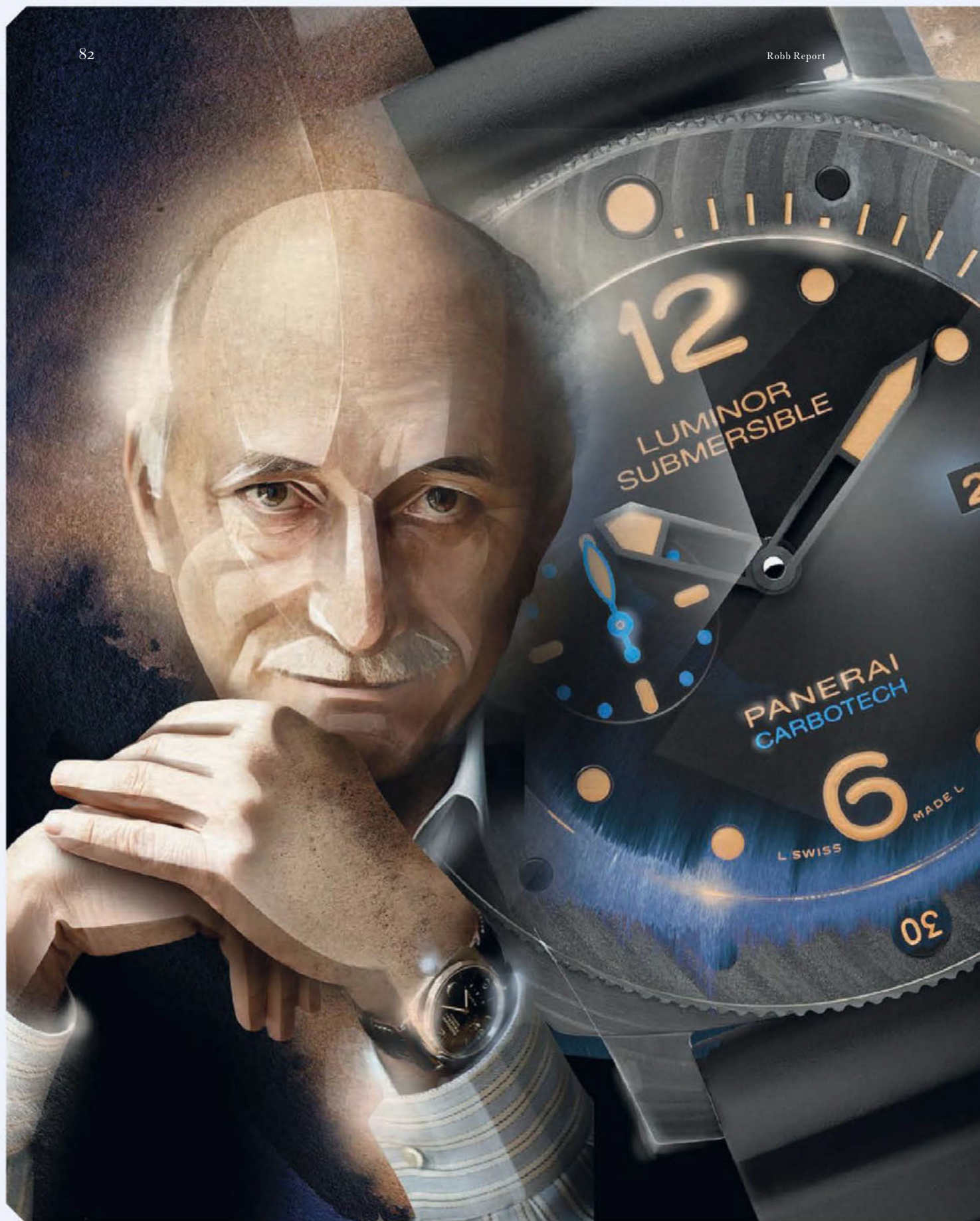
www.montblanc.com



“WE WANT TO
SINGLE OURSELVES
OUT THROUGH
TECHNICAL
PERFORMANCE.”

Jerome Lambert

The watches produced in Villeret express the core values upon which Montblanc was founded - to aim for the highest quality in all its endeavours.





FAIR GAME

One gets a glimpse of life as CEO of Panerai through the enigmatic response from Angelo Bonati. When asked what his favourite moment at Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie is, he replies: "The last day." He views this yearly watchmakers' fair in Geneva as a week-long catharsis, before work resumes on next year's novelties. "It's almost like being in jail," he jokes. "The last day certifies that it is the end of the fair and the day after that - we restart and think of the next one."

Since his appointment as CEO 15 years ago, Bonati has turned Panerai into one of the foremost names in sports luxury timepieces. In the process, he has accumulated an enviable track record; from consecutive double-digit growth to an in-house movement manufacture in Neuchâtel, the brand today is testimony to Bonati's focus. "When something appears in front of my eyes, I go straight," he says. "It's my character to make a decision the

moment I have an idea and, thankfully, up till now, it has turned out well.

"Ideas come to me at different moments; sometimes when I'm shaving or washing my hands. Today, I saw a picture, immediately had an idea and called someone to say we have to talk about it as soon as we can."

This year's novelties underline another master stroke in Panerai's evolution, with highlights including the historical-tinged 52mm Mare Nostrum in titanium and the futuristic 47mm Luminor Submersible 1950 Carbotech. The latter is an entirely new composite which makes its entry into haute horlogerie for the first time. High pressure and temperature on thin sheets of compressed carbon fibres have yielded a new material, lighter than titanium or ceramic with greater resistance to corrosion and external agents.

"Our strength has always been in the movement, design and materials," Bonati observes. "Due to our military origin, we are driven to provide materials which are



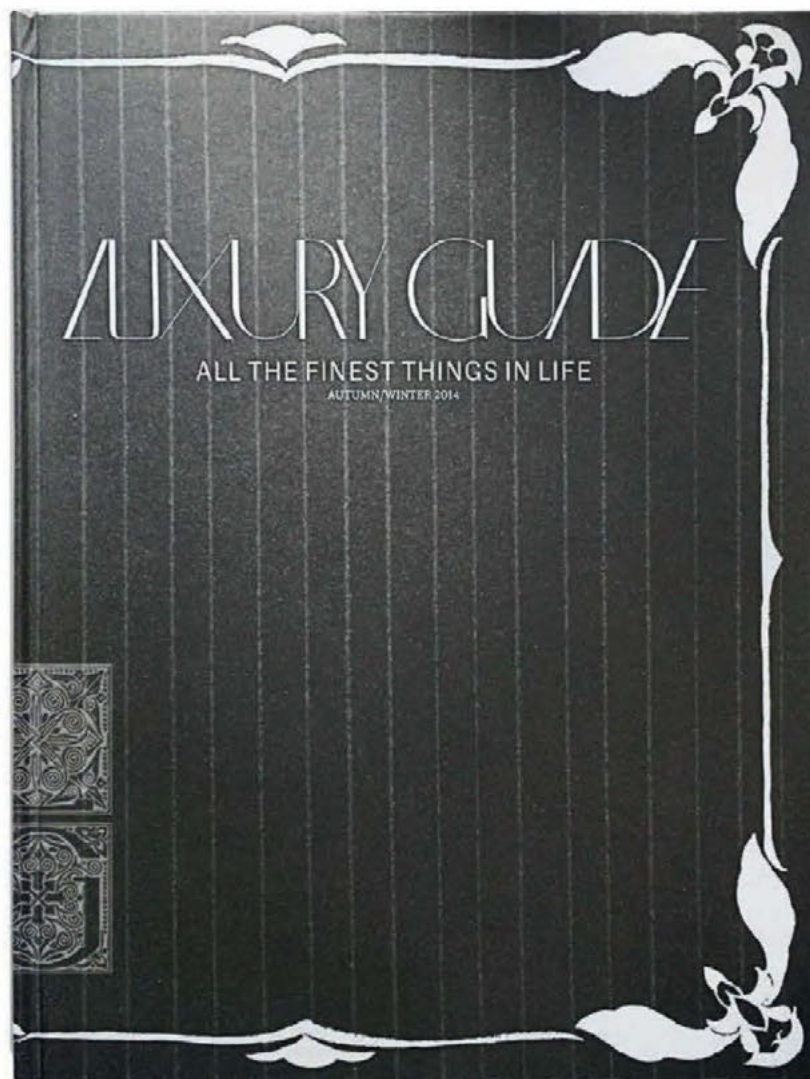
able to provide an important technological benefit. And just as importantly, we have a new image to present to the clients, instead of us just asking for them to look behind."

For Bonati, the whole experience of Panerai has taught him the value of relating to other people. "The value of a relationship is a metaphor for our own learning. I can give something positive or negative and receive the same in return. With people, you can measure yourself and, if you are humble, you can understand the many lessons that you receive." www.panerai.com



2015's Mare Nostrum Titanio possesses the great technical accuracy and similar aesthetic characteristics reflective of the original 1943 chronograph in its time.





Cover exclusively designed by

DOLCE & GABBANA

Luxury Guide

A limited-edition coffee-table book.

The definitive guide to luxury's brightest. Featuring brand insights, trend forecasts and colourful personality interviews combined with stunning photography.

*Purchase Luxury Guide at newsstands and leading bookstores,
or call +65 6225 1236 (Singapore), +603 7971 1758 (Kuala Lumpur) or +66 81 921 2199 (Bangkok) to order your copy.*

PRECISION MATTERS

In Jaeger-LeCoultre's Duometre Spherotourbillon Moon, the dance of celestial bodies is reimagined for the wrist. A rather clever addition of the 20-degree axis to the movement – to mirror the Earth's natural tilt – enables a hitherto unheard-of precision in the moon phase. Once properly adjusted, this timepiece remains accurate in predicting the moon phase for 3,887 years.

"We have come the long and hard way on this," says Daniel Riedo, CEO of Jaeger-LeCoultre. He alludes to more than 180 years of heritage, savoir faire as well as a self-contained manufacture staffed by 1,200 watchmaking experts. Of this number, 10 per cent of personnel are tasked to the creation of new novelties alone.

"To have this kind of precision on the moon phase with only four wheels, we had to put more intelligence in the movement than before," Riedo states. Fortunately, Jaeger-LeCoultre's lessons from the

past served in ensuring calculations, wheel engineering and tooth profile were precise. A new-generation laser cutting tool also enabled the manufacture to marry the highest technology with artisanal craftsmanship. "This is the limit in terms of precision that we can do for now," Riedo says.

In this year's 42mm platinum reference of the spherotourbillon, the 476-part Calibre 389 runs on two barrels with 45 hours of power reserve. A grade 5 titanium tourbillon carriage takes only 30 seconds for a complete turn, twice as quick as run-of-the-mill tourbillons. Riedo views all of this as Jaeger-LeCoultre's logical progression into translating time and celestial movement. "We do not develop tech for the sake of it. We have a full view of history," he says. "We are authentic."

www.jaeger-lecoultre.com




Rendez-Vous Moon is equipped with a wide moon phase indication that is accurate to one day every 972 years.



A composite image featuring a man in a dark blue suit and light blue tie, smiling, with his hands clasped. He is wearing a Jaeger-LeCoultre wristwatch. The background is a deep blue space scene with a large, detailed Jaeger-LeCoultre moon phase watch face on the right, showing the moon and stars. On the left, a pocket watch face is visible, also featuring a moon phase and constellation design. The entire image is framed by a decorative border of small, repeating geometric patterns.

**“WE DO NOT
DEVELOP TECH
FOR THE SAKE
OF IT.”**

Daniel Riedo



**“THE FINAL RESULT WAS
SOMETHING THAT WAS EASY TO
DEVELOP, PRODUCE AND MOST
IMPORTANTLY, USE.”**

Kurt Klaus

WHEELS OF INVENTION

In a career spanning five decades at IWC Schaffhausen, Kurt Klaus saw the best and worst of the Swiss watchmaking industry. In 1957, fresh out of the Solothurn Watchmaking school, and all of 21 years of age, Klaus joined IWC for the simple reason of being closer to home, which lay in the eastern part of Switzerland. "Most of the watchmaking industry was concentrated in the west and my motivation was to stay with my family," says Klaus, who retired as the head of development and construction for IWC in 1999.

In the 1970s and fraught by the quartz crisis, Klaus found he had time to spare. He forsook more than 100 years of wisdom in perpetual calendar mechanics, constructing a calendar system as a module and setting it atop an existing movement. "At the time, without any computer-controlled machines, we took longer to make everything work," he



The Portugieser Perpetual Calendar with a double moon is encased in 18-carat red gold and features a slate-coloured dial. The black alligator leather strap is by Santoni, with a folding clasp in 18-carat red gold.

remembers. "But the final result was something that was easy to develop, produce and most importantly, use."

Thus in 1985, IWC's Da Vinci 3570 debuted to worldwide acclaim.

It offered a perpetual calendar complication that tracked the day of the week, date, month, year and leap year.

But unlike any other perpetual calendar, it could be adjusted with only the crown, dispensing with the need for button pushers.

This usability, coupled with Klaus's ingenious development method, which enabled industrial production, helped turn the Da Vinci into a commercial success. "At the time, we were producing more perpetual calendars in a year than the rest of the industry combined," he says.

This year, IWC offers two versions of the Portugieser Perpetual Calendar; a double moon and single moon, with the former showing the moon phase in both hemispheres.

www.iwc.com

JOHN MAYER'S WRIST IS A WONDERLAND

The watch community provides a welcome escape from a life that's constantly under public scrutiny.

By ALEX WILLIAMS

Seated in a 30th-floor suite at the Carlyle hotel in New York, John Mayer is noodling through a few riffs on a glimmering new PRS Custom 22 guitar. It looks like a work of art as much as a musical instrument, its clear yellow finish revealing wood grain as brilliant as a tiger's stripes.

But Mayer's thoughts turn to a humbler possession that he treasured long ago: his first watch, a *Star Wars*-themed Armitron digital emblazoned with images of C-3PO and R2-D2.

When he was growing up in Connecticut, Mayer, 37, slept with

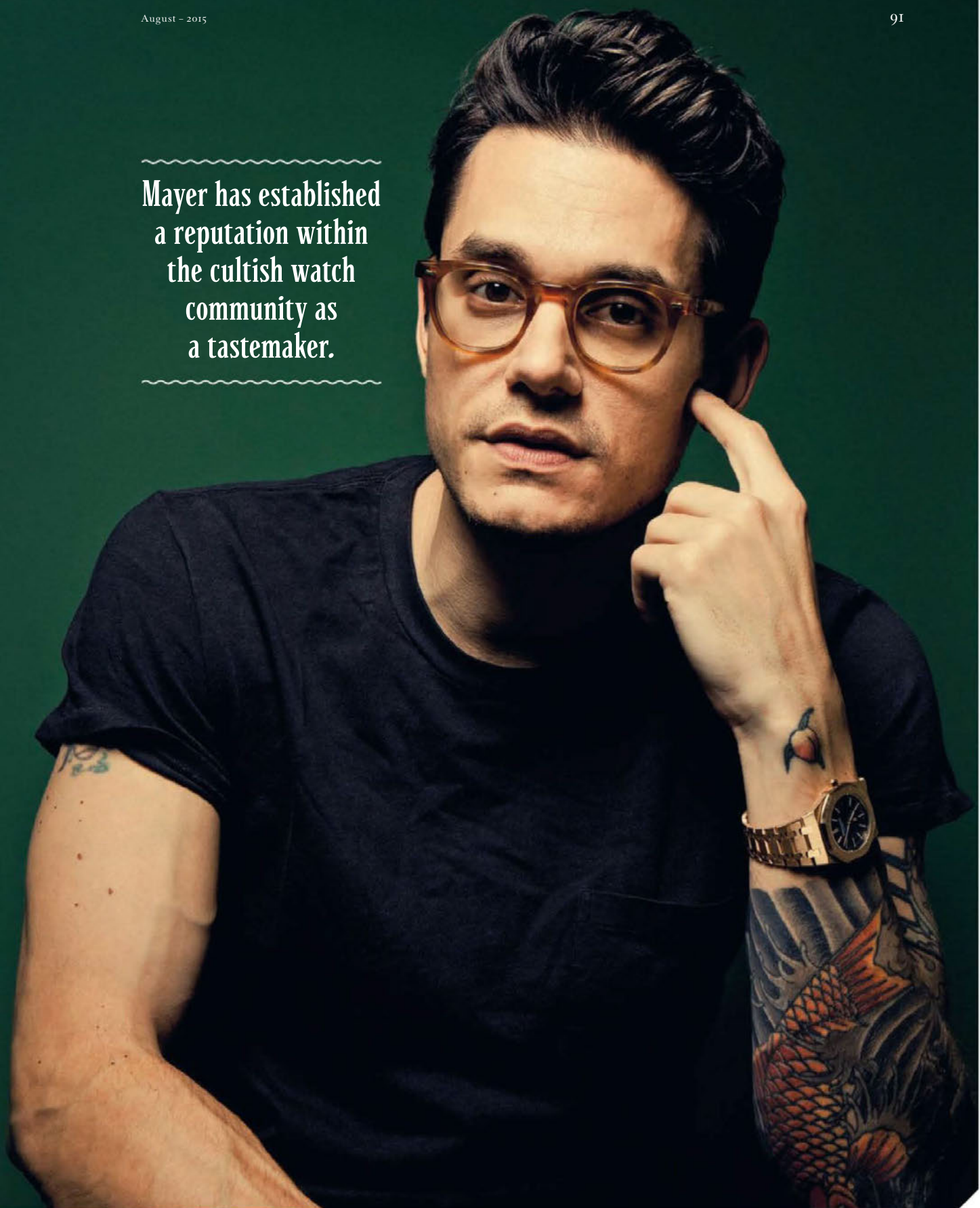
his head inside a cardboard box, in place of a pillow. That's where he kept his prized possessions, most significantly his watch. "I remember looking at it, and it was my friend," the platinum-selling singer, songwriter and guitar virtuoso says.

A prominent collector (he estimates that his collection, stored in bank vaults, is valued "in the tens of millions"), Mayer has established a reputation within the cultish watch community as a tastemaker, a discerning critic and a champion of horology.

Moonlighting from his career onstage, he contributes to the

John Mayer has jammed with the Rolling Stones and dated Katy Perry, and also knows how to accessorise a pink gold Audemars Piguet — with a tattoo sleeve.


~~~~~  
Mayer has established  
a reputation within  
the cultish watch  
community as  
a tastemaker.  
~~~~~





influential watch site Hodinkee and has been on the jury of the venerable Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Geneve. In Hollywood, Mayer has become a go-to guy for other celebrities looking for advice on their watch purchases.

His platform as a pop star gives him a unique opportunity: to translate the insular world of fine mechanical watch collecting to the iPhone generation. "John is something of a watch-nerd icon," says Benjamin Clymer, the 32-year-old founder of Hodinkee. "I think, in a lot of ways, John made it OK to really go deep into watches and not be embarrassed about it."

IT'S A 'SYNDROME'

Mayer's girlfriends have tended to view his watch obsession as a "syndrome", the singer admits.

"I think you're born a watch

person," he says. "Even if you don't own a watch for a while, you either get it or you don't."

He bought his first 'real' watch, a Rolex Explorer II, not long after receiving his first 'real' cheque from a record label, following the release of his 2001 breakthrough album, *Room for Squares*, which has sold more than 4.5 million copies.

"You're my one and only watch, you're my Rolex. I got a Rolex."

"You take it home and you study and you wear it, and the first thing you notice is, 'Whoa, this thing is heavy,'" Mayer says. "You've never felt weight shift like that on your wrist. It's heavy in weight, but it's also heavy in the sense that all these pieces are working together. It's what I call the 'density of design.'"

With its utilitarian white dial and steel bracelet, the Explorer II is almost normcore by celebrity

standards. Non-watch people may mistake it for a Timex.

For Mayer, it was not the status he cared about. "You take it, and it becomes your thing," he says. "You go: 'You're my one and only watch, you're my Rolex. I got a Rolex.' It's like a Cadillac. Rolex transcends watches as a name. It's 'the Rolex of' something, 'the Cadillac of' something."

As he embarked on a life of endless touring, Mayer learnt that a watch can serve a psychological function, as a grounding mechanism, a home base. "I remember thinking that I could go anywhere with this watch, because I couldn't be lost," he says. "I could get lost in Paris, but I had my watch. Now, on its face, no pun intended, it doesn't make sense. All your watch does is tell the time. But why do you feel strapped? Why do you feel equipped? It would take a lot of poetry to explain it."

Poring through collector's guides, Mayer discovered, was a way to decompress on the tour bus after a show. Soon he discovered the IWC Big Pilot's Watch, a masterpiece of design minimalism.

"It's a watch I identify with, that people identify with me," he says. "Now, all it does is tell the time and the date, that's it. But, man, how it does it."

His code name on tour became Big Pilot. And he added the logo typically found on pilot's watches (a triangle and two dots) to the 12th fret of his John Mayer signature acoustic guitar by C F Martin & Company. "It's a little didactic, and cartoonishly so," he says. "But this thing became my slide rule, my horizon line."

By that point, he was ready to take the next step: vintage collector pieces.

THE SEARCH

"I was a 'new' guy; I had to break the seal," Mayer says. He did so by purchasing a coveted Rolex Sea-Dweller from the 1970s, which has the words Sea-Dweller and Submariner 2000 printed in two lines of red type on its dial. "I take it home, and I do this thing - I think guys do it - you buy something and then you learn all about it," he says. "It's retroactive research."

After a decade of serious collecting, he was established enough as a connoisseur to ask Patek Philippe to make him unique pieces by request. One was a white



From top:
Patek Philippe Perpetual Calendar Split-Second Chronograph; Patek Philippe Perpetual Calendar Chronograph;
A Lange & Sohne Double Split Rattrapante Flyback Chronograph.
Facing page from left:
Rolex Cosmograph Oyster Daytona;
Audemars Piguet Royal Oak Extra-Thin.

**"You buy something
and then you learn
all about it."**



gold 5004G with luminous hands, typically a feature associated with casual sport watches. He needed to see them on stage, he told the company. "It was not about whether I wear each and every one on stage, but it has an intention to it," Mayer says, comparing it to the watch Sir Edmund Hillary wore to the top of Mount Everest. "It's made to support an endeavour."

While he had become a connoisseur, he was no snob. As a man who hunts down vintage US\$130 (\$173) Casio G-Shocks on eBay, he shrugs off what he calls the "L word" (luxury) and hopes that those outside the insular watch community will understand that his passion is educated, and thus pure. "I've always pitched this theory of, if a guy comes up to a restaurant in a red Ferrari, you kind of recoil," he says. "But if you find out that the guy owned 14 of them and he writes a blog on them, then you can appreciate it, because you can trust that there's a depth to it."

THE APPLE WATCH PUZZLE

This raises the question about what he thinks of the Apple Watch, a potential head-turner but one that will have no sense of heritage in the world of horology.

"We're all going to end up with the Apple Watch," Mayer says. "Even if you wear it as a pocket watch, because I have a concept that you can slot the Apple Watch into a pocket, as a pocket watch. I think


it's a cool device, but there's got to be another place to put it. I can't give up precious wrist space for an Apple Watch."

If, indeed, everyone is going to end up with the Apple, that may undercut a subtle joy of connoisseurship: the pleasure of belonging. "The watch community gets its power from being esoteric," Mayer says. "We don't want everybody to be involved in it."

Mayer developed his love of old-school mechanical timepieces in an era of mobile phones, which all came with clocks. Journalists were routinely predicting that the wristwatch would soon join the rotary phone and manual typewriter in obsolescence.

But a new generation of hipster refuseniks, Mayer among them, was learning to appreciate its analogue charms. "There's a mission creep on the word 'hipster,'" he says. "It's dismissive. It just means, 'I want to emerge somehow, I want to differentiate myself.'"

"Here's what is great about watch collecting," Mayer continues. You don't have to own a watch to be part of the conversation. In fact, most people who are commenting on the dial of the last iteration of the 5270" – the Patek Philippe Perpetual Calendar Chronograph coveted by collectors – "don't own a 5270. But that's like saying that most people who talk about the Chicago Bulls aren't on the Chicago Bulls."

johnmayer.com 

**"I can't give up
precious wrist
space for an
Apple Watch."**





Robb Report
**ON SALE
EARLY
SEPTEMBER
2015**

BEST OF THE BEST

The finer things in life simply won't do when you can have the finest. We present *Robb Report's* annual round-up of the nonpareil experiences and objects money can buy.



Photo ALAMY

THE ROYALS

Audemars Piguet has a penchant for dreaming up the most impossible versions of its iconic Royal Oak timepiece.

By SU JIA XIAN

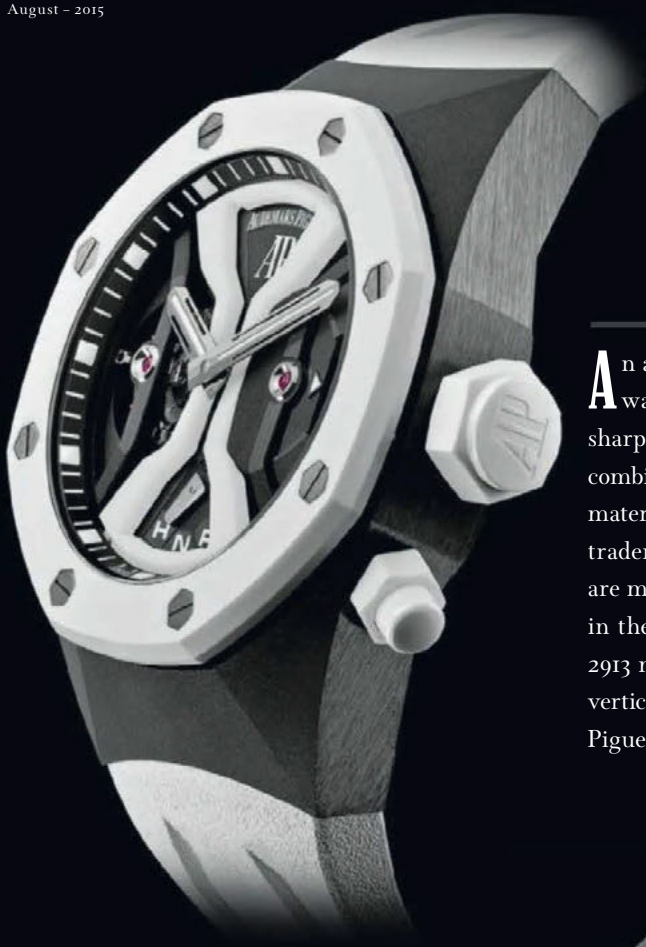
Audemars Piguet consistently produces some of the finest timepieces in Vallee de Joux. Part of its success must be credited to its subsidiary, Renaud et Papi, which is responsible for all the complicated movements fielded by Audemars Piguet. Highlights include the Royal Oak concept watches. Introduced in

2002 for the 30th anniversary of Royal Oak, Concept Watch 1 had a case made of Alacrite, a cobalt-based alloy. Its movement featured novel complications such as the Dynamographe torque indicator and crown function selector. The combination of unusual materials, inventive movements and the restyled Royal Oak case created the template for future concept watches.



ROYAL OAK CONCEPT MINUTE REPEATER

A timepiece that has yet to make it to production, the Royal Oak Concept minute repeater remains a closely guarded secret. Developed with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne and unveiled in January, the Royal Oak Concept repeater borrows ideas from the construction of stringed instruments to create what might be the loudest minute repeater wristwatch ever made. Alongside its remarkable volume, the concept repeater also boasts a newly developed regulator that operates nearly soundlessly, eliminating a traditional source of acoustic interference with the chimes of the repeater.



ROYAL OAK TOURBILLON CONCEPT GMT

An almost natural evolution of the first concept watch, this model has a more muscular, sharply defined case made of lightweight titanium, combined with white ceramic, a scratch-resistant material that's nine times harder than steel. The trademark octagonal bezel, crown and pusher are made of ceramic. This material is even found in the movement, with the bridge of the calibre 2913 machined out of ceramic. Spanning the dial vertically, the bridge marks the first time Audemars Piguet has used ceramic in a movement.

ROYAL OAK CONCEPT LAPTIMER MICHAEL SCHUMACHER

In 2010, Michael Schumacher asked Audemars Piguet for a watch that could measure several consecutive lap times, a task usually shared by two or more stopwatches. Earlier this year, the company accomplished just that after five years of development. Royal Oak Concept Laptimer is a traditional chronograph with an ingenious twist. In addition to the conventional two buttons for start, stop and reset, the Laptimer features a third button at nine o'clock. Pressing this button stops one of the two seconds hands, while simultaneously resetting and restarting the other. In practice this means as soon as the car passes the line, the elapsed time for the lap can be recorded with the stopped hand, while the new lap is immediately being recorded with the alternate seconds hand. www.audemarspiguet.com



WISH FULFILMENT

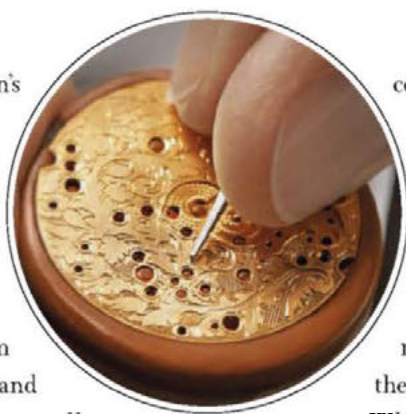
The art of bespoke by Vacheron Constantin.

By KENNETH TAN

To hear Vacheron Constantin's retail director, Dominique Bernaz, talk about its bespoke department – known as Atelier Cabinotiers – is like discovering a secret passage in an old house. In 2006, with a gathered wisdom spanning more than 250 years and a manufacture capable of almost all watchmaking processes, the department was formed with Bernaz hand-picked to help clients realise their wishes for bespoke timepieces.

His first commission, from an important collector whom he met at an auction soon after the formation of Atelier Cabinotiers, necessitated a team of engineers, watchmakers and research and development efforts across eight years. "It was a major project with many complications that had never been made before," he says, adding that September will see the fruition of that dream.

Over time, the department has delivered on scores of commissions, with some requiring unique dials, engraving or 100-per-




The plates and bridges of the hand-wound 4400 calibre (also on facing page) are adorned with delicate floral motifs. Facing page: Dominique Bernaz.

cent bespoke calibres. For Bernaz, the key lies in a meeting of minds with the clients. "Either they come to Geneva to talk to us, or we meet them in any of our boutiques around the world," he says. The one commonality in all client requests is, simply, a stated wish for their timepieces to be unique.

What has helped the case are clients who are well-informed of Vacheron Constantin's DNA, including the brand's binding requirement to the lofty standards of the Geneva Hallmark. Even so, Bernaz has had to deal with many a curveball, such as requests for a different form of polishing than what is traditionally applied. "In almost all cases, my answer is usually, 'yes, I will check'. Atelier Cabinotiers is a place where we are always trying to give clients the happiness of getting a timepiece which meets their proposal," he says. He acknowledges this bespoke facet has long existed throughout the brand's history; customising one-of-a-kind pocket watches, clocks and wristwatches for wealthy industrialists and members of royalty.

“Atelier Cabinotiers is a place where we are always trying to give clients the happiness of getting a timepiece which meets their proposal.”

“The most important lesson I’ve learnt is none of this happens without the fullest commitment of the entire team; from the R&D team who study the feasibility of the project, right down to the enamellers, jewellers and engravers who provide the finishing touches.”

www.vacheron-constantin.com 





LUSTRE LOST AND FOUND

The bedazzling glitter of diamonds easily masks certain questionable practices in the mining industry, but some companies are looking to change that.

By HO YUN KUAN

Identical dark green cylinders, standing in neat rows, emit a low, throbbing hum that fills the whole room. Squinting through a narrow opening in one of them, one sees what looks like a white mist hovering over a tray of glowing red cubes. Workers, wearing hairnets and yellow

lab coats, hurry around the room. Glued to iPads, they are studying numbers that indicate the temperature, pressure and other readings within each cylinder. They are monitoring diamond production, but this is no conventional diamond mine. Instead of a giant pit dug into the ground, all the diamonds here



Ila Technologies' gems are type Ila diamonds, the purest, and thus most colourless, grade of the gem.

are found in an 18,580sqm building located in the industrial estate of Jurong, Singapore.

The cylinders are diamond 'greenhouses' optimised to artificially imitate the environment, including the heat and pressure that diamonds require to grow in nature. Red-hot cubes within these cylinders are diamond seeds in the process of growing and the white mist above them, carbon atoms 'raining' onto the diamond seeds.

The facility, run by Ila Technologies (zatechnologies.com), is the largest of its kind in the world. Using the aforementioned process, which is known as Microwave Plasma Chemical Vapour Deposition (MPCVD), the firm can grow a diamond in about **two weeks**. It produced 300,000 carats of diamonds last year and sold them priced about 30 per cent less than conventionally mined diamonds. The competitive pricing was despite Ila Technologies' gems being type Ila diamonds – the purest, and thus most colourless, grade of the gem.

A large output, lower prices and 100-per-cent precision in producing top-



From above:
white and
pink diamonds
grown by Ila
Technologies;
Faberge Devotion
Emerald Bombe
Ring.
Facing page:
a rough diamond
grown by Ila
Technologies.

quality diamonds – all this, achieved without the environmental and human rights issues that usually surround mining companies. Could Ila's capabilities and its commercial success mark the beginning of a new era for the gem trade?

Industry figures suggest this might be the case. According to market research consultancy Frost and Sullivan, the global supply of mined diamonds is predicted to fall from 134 million carats in 2014 to just 14 million carats by 2050. Demand, however, is likely to rise to 292 million carats in the same period. This implies a potential shortfall of 278 million carats in supply. The demand that cannot be satisfied by conventional mines might have to be met by lab-grown diamonds.

Man-made stones also have an environmental advantage over natural ones. When taking into account factors like land disturbance, dangers to employees and energy usage, lab-grown diamonds have less than seven times the impact of mined diamonds.





their managers," he assures. "Each team has dedicated employees qualified to give first aid, and each mine site has an ambulance and clinic."

Besides providing gainful employment for the locals in the regions it mines, Gemfields also refills and replants old pits, or fills them with water and introduces fish populations to these new ponds.

One per cent from the proceeds of each rough ruby auction, which Gemfields holds twice a year, is pledged to fund projects, such as the building of schools, in the communities the company operates in. One per cent is a substantial amount when one considers that Gemfields' last ruby auction in December 2014

One per cent from the proceeds of each of Gemfields' rough ruby auctions is pledged to fund projects.

Traditional mines are not operating without help, however. Organisations such as the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) and Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) are working hard to lead the mining industry towards a more sustainable future.

Gemfields (www.gemfields.co.uk), one of the world's biggest suppliers of coloured gemstones, is one firm that operates according to the guidelines set out by these organisations, namely RJC.

Indeed, sustainability has high enough priority at Gemfields to warrant an individual department headed by Jack Cunningham, the sustainability manager.

"All our mine staff receive health and safety training, personal protective equipment, and must report accidents to

From above:
Faberge Devotion
Ruby Earrings;
diamond seeds
being placed inside
a growth chamber
at Ila Technologies.

brought in US\$43.3 million (\$59 million).

"Gemfields hasn't yet quantified the overall investment (of going sustainable)," reveals Cunningham. "But it certainly isn't seen as pure cost. Without the strong foundations of a good community relationship, we can't operate and we can't hope to have a lasting legacy."

At the moment, socially conscious mining companies appear to have the upper hand. Lab-grown diamonds, despite being no less 'real' than mined diamonds, have yet to gain a foothold in the high-end jewellery business. The world's biggest jewellers continue to pride themselves on being the purveyors of the finest gemstones, with the unspoken edict that every stone is a product of nature and painstakingly sourced.




Faberge, for example, acquired and wholly owned by Gemfields since 2013, uses rubies, emeralds and amethysts from Gemfields' mines.

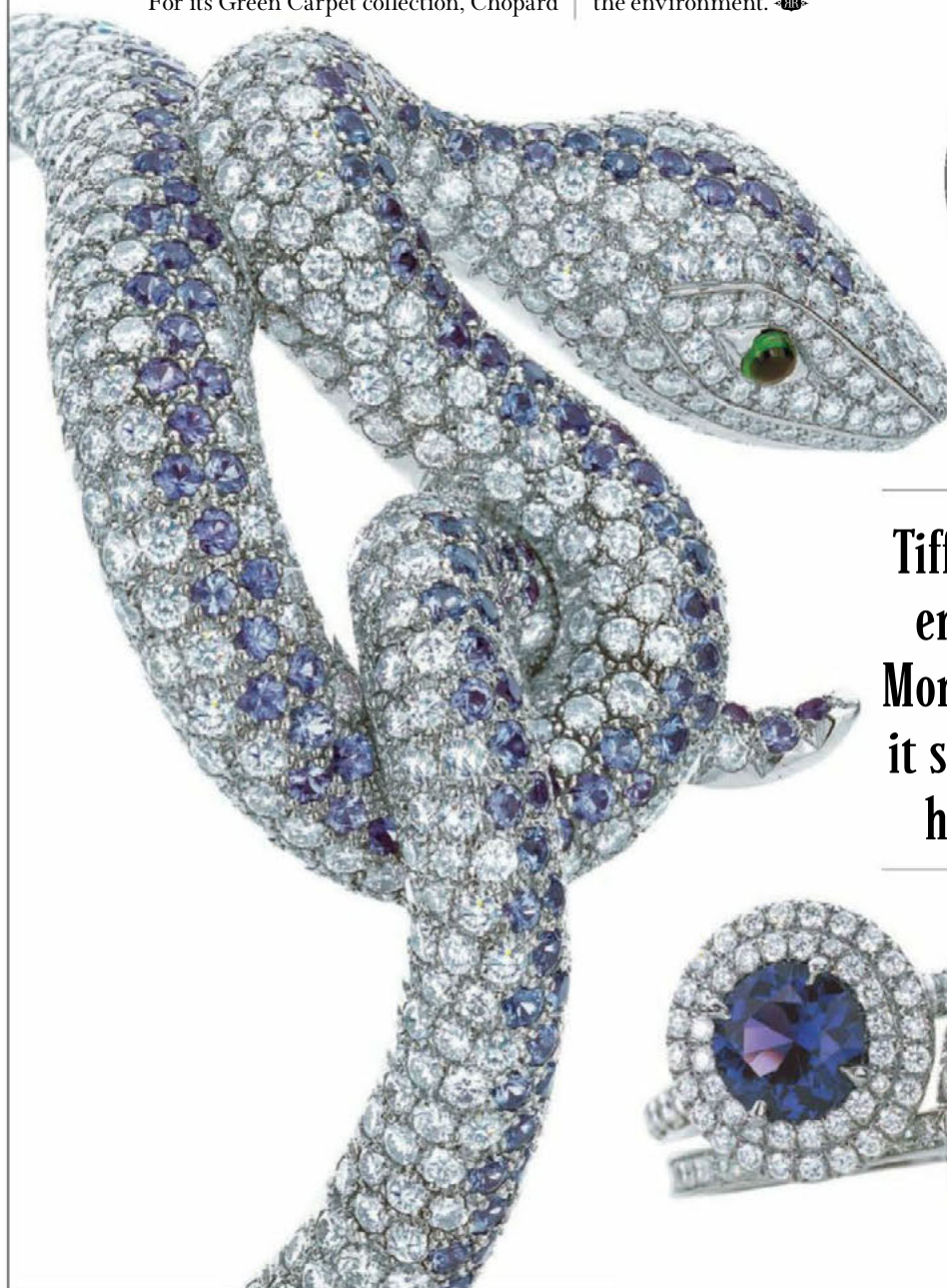
American jeweller Tiffany & Co often emphasises the Montana sapphires it sources from its home country, specifically, as the gems' name indicates, the state of Montana.

For its Green Carpet collection, Chopard

sets diamonds sourced from an RJC-certified supplier on fairmined gold.

Luxury jewellers may not be willing to use lab-grown gems yet, but the growth of these labs are forcing the industry to relook long-established practices. In the future, the price tag on that glittering diamond necklace may come to apply only to the consumer and not the environment. 

Clockwise from below: a rough ruby from Gemfields; Tiffany & Co rings with diamonds and Montana sapphires; Tiffany snake bracelet with diamonds, Montana sapphires and emeralds.



Tiffany & Co often emphasises the Montana sapphires it sources from its home country.



OXYGEN BOOST

Recalibrate your beauty regimen with a little help from high-tech skincare brand Karin Herzog.

By KAREN TEE

Not only is oxygen essential to life, it could very well make you more beautiful too. Swiss skincare brand Karin Herzog is harnessing the beautifying powers of this molecule in its wide range of lotions and potions.

The brand was founded in 1975 by Dr Paul Herzog, a researcher and professor who made it his life's work to study the benefits of oxygen on the human body. He was the first researcher to find a way to stabilise active oxygen in an emulsion for medical purposes. But it was his wife Karin, a trained aesthetician, who noticed significant improvement to her skin, including tightened pores, reduced lines and a radiant complexion, while testing products and urged him to launch a beauty brand.

The benefits of oxygen-infused skincare is manifold. It is essential for the healthy functioning of skin cells, helps to stimulate collagen production and has sanitising properties to help combat skin infections. These preservative-free formulations are suitable for all skin types, including those with problem skin.



Clockwise from above:
Noelle Herzog;
Vita-A-Kombi 1
anti-ageing face cream; Oxygen
Hyalu Lift
wrinkle-lifting cream; Oxygen
Body 3%
body lotion.




Today, there are many brands that include oxygen as an active ingredient, but Noelle Herzog, daughter of the founders and president of the company, says Karin Herzog products are “in their own league”.

“These are the only products to capture active oxygen in an emulsion, which by reaction with skin enzymes allows deep penetration into the skin for optimal contribution to the cells’ healthy behaviour,” she adds, noting that active oxygen is more frequently used for dermatological and medical purposes and is rarely seen in skincare creams.

The brand’s bestsellers include the Face Cleansing Gel (\$75) that works on waterproof make-up and the anti-wrinkle Oxygen Hyalu Lift (\$228). In Singapore, Karin Herzog skincare is available at Haute Swiss Cosmetics. www.karinherzog.com



A woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a white long-sleeved space suit with a large, clear spherical helmet. She is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. Her right hand is resting on the side of her neck. The background is a blurred city street with buildings and a sidewalk.

“These are the only products to capture active oxygen in an emulsion, which by reaction with skin enzymes allows deep penetration into the skin.”



THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

De Beers' head designer, Hollie Bonneville Barden, takes *Robb Report* on a whirlwind dance through the new Aria Collection.

By RENYILIM

It's a beautiful world to dive into," Hollie Bonneville Barden, head designer for De Beers, says, smiling as she describes her work. Since joining De Beers in 2011, she's been hailed as a jewellery prodigy for her rapid rise through the industry, bringing with her an expressive, almost sensuous aesthetic. The newest example of her creative energy is the De Beers Aria High Jewellery Collection.

The collection's spiralling curves, blooming outwards from one central diamond, reverberate through every piece, from the showstopping Aria Ring and its 5.45-carat centrepiece to the sinuous Aria Necklace with its interplay of round brilliant and diamond baguettes, totalling up to an impressive 57.99 carats. The collection is very much a celebration of femininity, bringing to mind the image of a dancer's swirling, pirouetting form and prompting spontaneous feelings of wonder in all who wear an Aria piece.

"I love to use a diamond as a metaphor and to draw parallels between diamonds and women," Bonneville Barden explains. "I go by a philosophy of power and grace, and for me, diamonds are full of power – yet they express grace. This is a very poignant note in the Aria Collection certainly. It is about a woman of power and strength who is still able to express those attributes elegantly."



Her next step has been to draw the Aria Collection into a new dance with some unexpected twists and turns, producing eight De Beers Aria High Jewellery Unique pieces featuring dark blue aventurine petals – a marvellously deep contrast against the twinkling brilliance of the central and surrounding diamonds. At its most subtle,

the nimble exchange between shadow and light is best highlighted in the

Aria Unique Drop Earrings, with cascading rows of pave and brilliant-cut diamonds, and the floral-patterned Aria Unique Cuff. Of course, there is her favourite piece, too – the Aria Unique Watch with an aventurine dial and a poetic fusion of pave, brilliant and baguette-cut diamonds.

Could this masterful turn in unifying two contrasting elements stem from De Beers' own DNA?

In Bonneville Barden's words: "What I love about working for De Beers is that it has almost a juxtaposition of an identity. On one hand, it has such a heritage as they've been a diamond master since 1888, yet from a design perspective, it's quite a young and contemporary brand. It's the marrying of these two opposing positions that I feel makes it a very vibrant, innovative place to work at, especially for me as a designer. There's really a freedom and a scope to create something new and exciting for De Beers."

www.debeers.com

“By disassembling
and assembling
shoes, I got to learn
how they are made.”

SOLE SEARCHING



Ed Et Al is celebrating its fifth anniversary with a slew of exciting developments and collections. *Robb Report* sits down for a chat with founder Edwin Neo to discuss his rise to the top from his past stint as a shoe repairer.

By DOREEN TAN

How did your experience at Masterfix Services help you in Ed Et Al? Shoe repair gave me a very deep understanding of footwear. By disassembling and assembling shoes, I got to learn how they are made, what components are inside and why they are inside. This is why all our apprentices start off at Ed Et Al by servicing post-purchase shoes.

What are some of the difficulties you faced while starting Ed Et Al? The most difficult part was the lack of auxiliary support. In the shoemaking industry, it's not just about the shoemakers. There is also the upper maker, the finders, the suppliers. In Singapore, there were few to none of those. We had a hard time finding the right leather, tools and other supplies needed to make shoes. In many cases we had to compromise until we could afford, or find, suitable alternatives.

There was also the stigma attached to a Singaporean brand.

The industry was overwhelmingly dominated by foreign brands so it was a challenge convincing customers that we were as good as or not too far off from the major shoemakers. But support for local products has grown. Today, 80 per cent of our customers are Singaporeans.

What does it mean for you to be a footwear designer in Singapore at this time? It is a

very appropriate time for us simply because Singapore used to be a shoe manufacturing hub. At the Geylang and Kallang area, there were shoemakers and shoe suppliers

everywhere, until the 1980s when people started turning to Malaysia and eventually China. The difference is that now we are moving from a model of high output and low value to one of low output and high value. At Ed Et Al, we produce less but higher quality products that are of greater value.

edetal.sg

Before opening Ed Et Al, Edwin Neo (inset) embarked on an apprenticeship in Budapest under the tutelage of a master shoemaker.



Giampiero Bodino restored and decorated
Villa Mozart himself.

Facing page:

Giampiero Bodino Rosa dei Venti
choker with a diamond-encrusted chain
featuring coloured gemstones.

STEALTH WEALTH

His spectacular one-off creations have been worn by the creme de la creme of high society. *Robb Report* introduces you to the most famous man you've never heard of – Giampiero Bodino.

Text MARIA DOULTON/TELEGRAPH MEDIA GROUP LTD

By MARIA DOULTON



Debutts are rare in the world of high jewellery, where the smallest items are worth more than the average London house. Purveyors of haute joaillerie are usually reassuringly rich in history. They are proud of their leather-bound archives whose brittle pages record in swirling hand-penned script commissions from royalty and railroad barons.

But don't assume that because you have never heard of the man behind Maison Giampiero Bodino that he is a new kid on the block. Bodino is one of the most influential men in the world of luxury. As art director of the Richemont Group since 2002, he oversees every jewel and watch design from the group's brands that include Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels, Piaget and more. In short, he has shaped the look of luxury of our generation. Previously, he worked in Bulgari's jewellery design studios after a stint with car designer

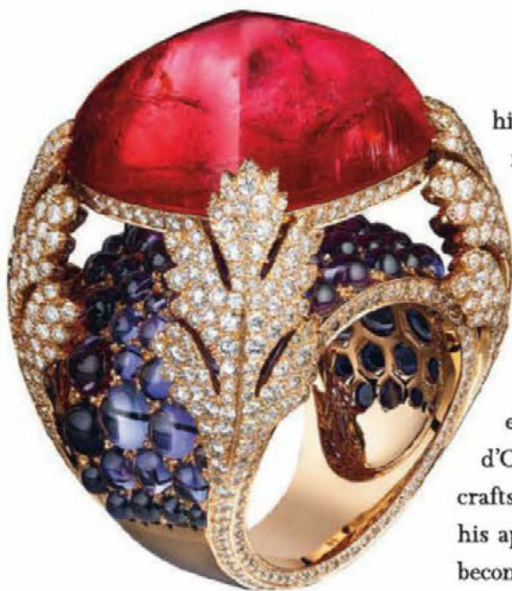
Giorgetto Giugiaro, having completed his studies in architecture.

But with years of experience in the highest echelons of the world of luxury, he is doing things differently for himself. First of all, for the Richemont-owned Maison Giampiero Bodino there are no boutiques. Discretion is all, and you could walk past the Villa Mozart – its one and only premises, on a leafy residential street

in Milan – and not know you had just passed the walls that guard a treasure trove of spectacular jewels. A single small ivy-draped brass plaque lets you know you have arrived.

Bodino is one of the most influential men in the world of luxury.

To climb the stone steps of Villa Mozart is to experience a whole new take on luxury. The art deco rationalist-style villa – the subject of an *Architectural Digest Italia* feature as restored and decorated by Bodino – is serenely grand and coolly elegant. The marble columns, high-ceilinged rooms with polished stone mosaic floors and huge chandeliers may be



himself, starting with a finely rendered sketch and later a gouache painting, and then oversees the meticulous production process. Since launching in November 2013, the maison has produced almost 100 jewels, each one a one-off or Capo d'Opera – the piece of work a craftsman submits at the end of his apprenticeship in the hope of becoming a master.

Italy is centre stage in Bodino's

opulence of the great epoques and artistic flourishes of Italian history. But much like Villa Mozart, despite their grandeur, these jewels are made to be lived in.

The Teodora cuffs, which take their geometric pattern from the ancient mosaic floors of Byzantine churches, combine materials in a modern way; milk white rods of glossy white chalcidony are laid over a bed of white diamonds, or mossy green chrysoprase over delicate violet sapphires. Just one of these

monumental, but with Bodino's touch it is softened into a liveable texture. Settle down on one of the two deep-cushioned sofas in front of the marble fireplace and watch the neighbour's golden Labrador bound across the sun-dappled lawn.

Returning to the idea of maison in the truest sense, Bodino greets every guest like a friend who is delighted you have spared the time to pay him a visit. "I really can't see myself in a store," he explains. "I'm interested in receiving people here because I really believe that when you buy something as special and as important as a jewel, you should relate. You don't buy just an object. You buy an emotion."

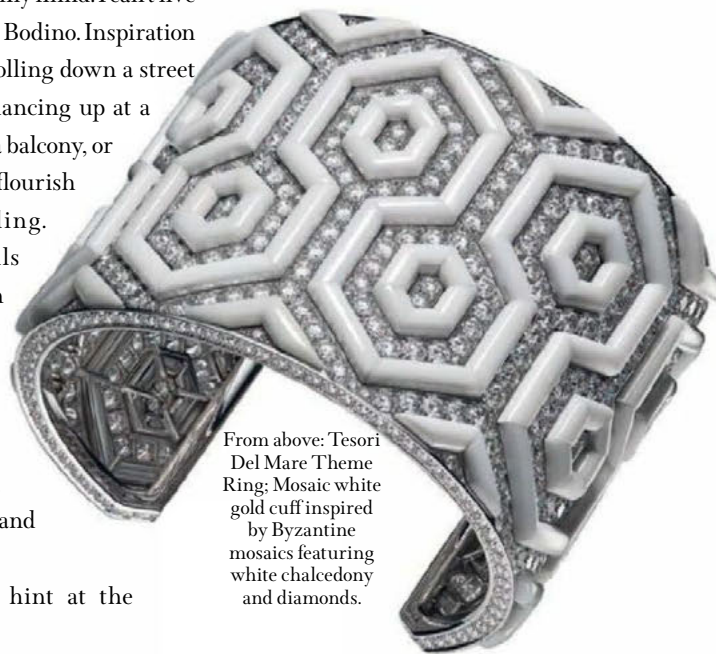
Bodino may well be wiping paint off his hands as he emerges from his studio to receive you – he is also an accomplished artist. His canvases hang on the walls above carefully chosen furniture that effortlessly blends styles from across the past century. He designs each jewel

The Teodora cuffs take their geometric pattern from the ancient mosaic floors of Byzantine churches.

work. "I can't hide the fact that I'm really in love with my country. Views of cities that I visited when I was young with my family remain like a picture in my mind. I can't live without it," says Bodino. Inspiration comes from strolling down a street in Sicily and glancing up at a worn statue in a balcony, or a carved stone flourish on a building. Smaller details also emerge in his work: the richness of Renaissance decorative braid work, ancient cameos and spring flowers.

His jewels hint at the

cuffs would make an electrically charged statement. There is an erotic edge to the Rosa dei Venti choker, with its glossy amethyst



From above: Tesori Del Mare Theme Ring; Mosaic white gold cuff inspired by Byzantine mosaics featuring white chalcidony and diamonds.

beads decadently stacking up the neck, and emerald and diamond quatrefoils. These symbols and motifs have found a new voice in these refined reincarnations.

“Every day, I find something to wonder at and something to draw, to

sketch,” says Bodino, “starting with that dense perfection of meaning that, in our multicultural cities and our faceted lives, translates an ideal of perfect beauty that never grows old, never disappoints us.”

www.giampierobodino.com

Villa Mozart
was designed by
1930s rationalist
architect Piero
Portaluppi.

THE JEWELS OF MILAN

Pomellato's new collection reflects the many rhythms and characteristics of the Italian city.

By **DUNCAN FORGAN**

Italy's capital of high fashion, Milan is synonymous with exquisite design and exclusive accoutrements. It is fitting, therefore, that Pomellato, one of Europe's most sought-after jewellery brands, has paid homage to the city's fashionable soul with the creation of its new collection.

Entitled Milano, the stunning new line is something of a love letter to the city where Pomellato was founded in 1967. Although decisively contemporary, the line draws inspiration from a tradition of artisanal excellence that has helped establish Milan as a hub of innovation in art and design.

Motifs such as *gourmette* and *torchon* inspire the precious elements in a collection that is unashamedly feminine. Double and single rings in different textures and shades of gold are designed to be mixed and matched to suit the tastes of wearers.

Not just a celebration of the city, the collection is also a recognition of Pomellato's own roots. Founded by Pino Ranolini, the brand has nurtured a reputation for pioneering excellence. Pushing the idea that jewellery is not just a status symbol but an accessory to be worn at any moment of the day and changed like clothes, the company is considered

Rhodium-plated white gold chains and pendants. Below: rings in sandblasted rose gold with diamonds, rhodium-plated white and rose gold with diamonds, and sandblasted yellow gold with diamonds.

The collection is also a recognition of Pomellato's own roots.



an innovative force in the sphere of pret-a-porter jewellery. From humble beginnings in the Italian city, the brand has expanded to become a truly international force with outlets worldwide.

The brand is now a globetrotting concern. With Milano, however, Pomellato has re-engaged with its own history to truly magical effect.

www.pomellato.com

A NOTCH ABOVE

The gentleman's suit begins with the fit and ends with the lapel.

By ANDREA SIM

Cary Grant has been immortalised in motion pictures donning jackets with notch lapels.

Photo CORBIS



Centuries ago, jackets were fastened all the way to the neck. Wearers would unhook the top of their jackets and turn the collars down at an angle when they were indoors, away from the cold, or during temperature spikes. Although these jackets would now be considered archaic in design by modern sensibilities, they paved the way for the lapels we know and wear today.

Lapels are formed by the stitching together of both layers of a jacket's front. Each type of lapel is generally paired with a certain jacket style, though this is more

a general rule of thumb. The shawl lapel tends to be confined to smoking jackets and tuxedos, while the notch and peak lapels are far more versatile. The right pairing can give one that certain, elusive *je ne sais quoi* and can also complement your height or body type.

The perfect accent for lapels are lapel pins, or more traditionally, boutonnières. These are typically composed of a single or bunch of blooms worn through the buttonhole on the left lapel. The dash of colour was a popular accessory of choice among the flamboyant bourgeois, typically during summer.

The lapel originated centuries ago when jackets were designed to fasten all the way to the neck.



NOTCH LAPEL

The go-to for the everyday suit, the notch lapel rarely looks out of place on a solid single-breasted suit. Recall the protagonist in Tom Ford's *A Single Man*? The black notch lapel jacket donned by Colin Firth in his role of university professor sits right at home with his character, who always looks immaculate.

The ease of wear and functionality of the notch lapel is undeniable, but it shows off its wild side when incorporated on a printed, textured jacket, shedding its practical, utilitarian reputation. Need to project a bigger presence? A 75- to 90-degree angled notch (where the collar meets the lapel) helps to visually beef up shoulder width.






PEAK LAPEL

The peak lapel is almost always found on double-breasted jackets, and also appears on the single-breasted suits of more fashion-forward individuals. It can elevate a solid jacket meant for everyday wear and should not be reserved for purely formal evening looks. The peak lapel is admittedly slightly trickier to pull off than the conservative notch lapel, but its upward points on a single-breasted jacket complements broader builds by directing the line of vision vertically.

Above from left: peak lapels on a Berluti autumn 2015 jacket; shawl lapels done the Balmain way for autumn.

SHAWL LAPEL

The shawl lapel, with its continuous curve and rounded edges, belongs on tuxedos and smoking jackets. Perhaps it's due to the enduring image of a man lounging in a dimly lit gentleman's club wearing such a jacket, complete with snifter in one hand and cigar in the other, that we've come to associate the shawl lapel with pursuits of the hedonistic variety. Meant to highlight the luxurious affair they're intended for, shawl lapels usually sport a different, shinier, finish from the rest of the jacket, which is usually made of velvet. 

BACK TO SCHOOL

Larry Peh, creative director of &Larry, tells Tracy Phillips why his Faculty jeans (from his new label) are literally one of a kind.

What prompted you to launch Faculty? As a fashion enthusiast, it was a natural transition. I found partners who shared a common vision of producing clothing that men are comfortable in, and products that reflect a sense of style, intelligence and sophistication.

What makes Faculty's Damaged 15 jeans your favourite item? I'm a huge fan of damaged denim and have over 100 pairs, but I've always felt that they could be better so I came up with my own. Okayama's close-knit group of craftsmen in Japan are already busy making denim for some of the coolest brands in the world. Kuroki Mill, one of the most globally renowned denim mills, took us on despite our small orders and the fact that we didn't speak Japanese. This is unprecedented as only big brands with huge orders are allowed to use their name.

Some might say jeans are just jeans, what makes yours so special?

Every pair is handmade by Okayama craftsmen so no pair is identical. Every tear, scratch, damage, wash and repair of the Denim 15 is done by hand. There's one particular damage where they referenced the map of Singapore, using different threads and paint work.

For the patina that I wanted, dyeing, sandblasting, tagging, ripping, patching and eventually some repairing were needed to achieve the final look and feel. I was obsessed with the patina that only happens with long wear and age, and I'm happy that our factory in Okayama fulfilled such a tough request.

www.andlarry.com



“Fragrances are
works of art - you get
to wear that energy.”

NOSE IT ALL

Renowned perfumer Frederic Malle talks
creating art, selling out and celebrity fragrances.

By JOSH SIMS



Frederic Malle (facing page) opened his first Editions de Parfums boutique at 37 Rue de Grenelle, Paris in 2000.

Art, Frederic Malle argues, is in demand. “Why do we want to hang a painting on our walls and look at it day after day? Because it gives an amazing energy, because it’s a moment in that artist’s existence. Fragrances are works of art – you get to wear that energy.”

The Frenchman’s thoughts on fragrances are worth listening to. The nephew of film director Louis Malle and grandson of the founder of Parfums Christian Dior revolutionised the industry in 2000 by launching a company that works directly with ‘noses’ to create the distinct and unusual, however long it takes. He revives unfashionable ingredients and explores new ones. Packaging is minimal, marketing non-existent.

If that sounds like a recipe for

Cologne Indelebile is concocted by Dominique Ropion, the nose behind some of the most popular formulas under Frederic Malle.



unprofitability, it hasn’t been. Indeed, last January his company was acquired by Lauder – a move which, he says, has enhanced his independence since this creative spirit is precisely what the cosmetics giant has bought into. The company is now on a store expansion drive, opening in London this summer.

Certainly Malle argues that there is, at last, a move away from the mass-marketed, celebrity-endorsed fragrances back to their original conception.

“A good fragrance is a luxury and luxury is not cheap,” he says. “But it lasts. You want to enjoy it. My suit was made in 1999. It wasn’t cheap. Yet I’m still wearing it. That’s the same kind of value people want with fragrances now. Soon celebrities are going to have to go back to acting again.”

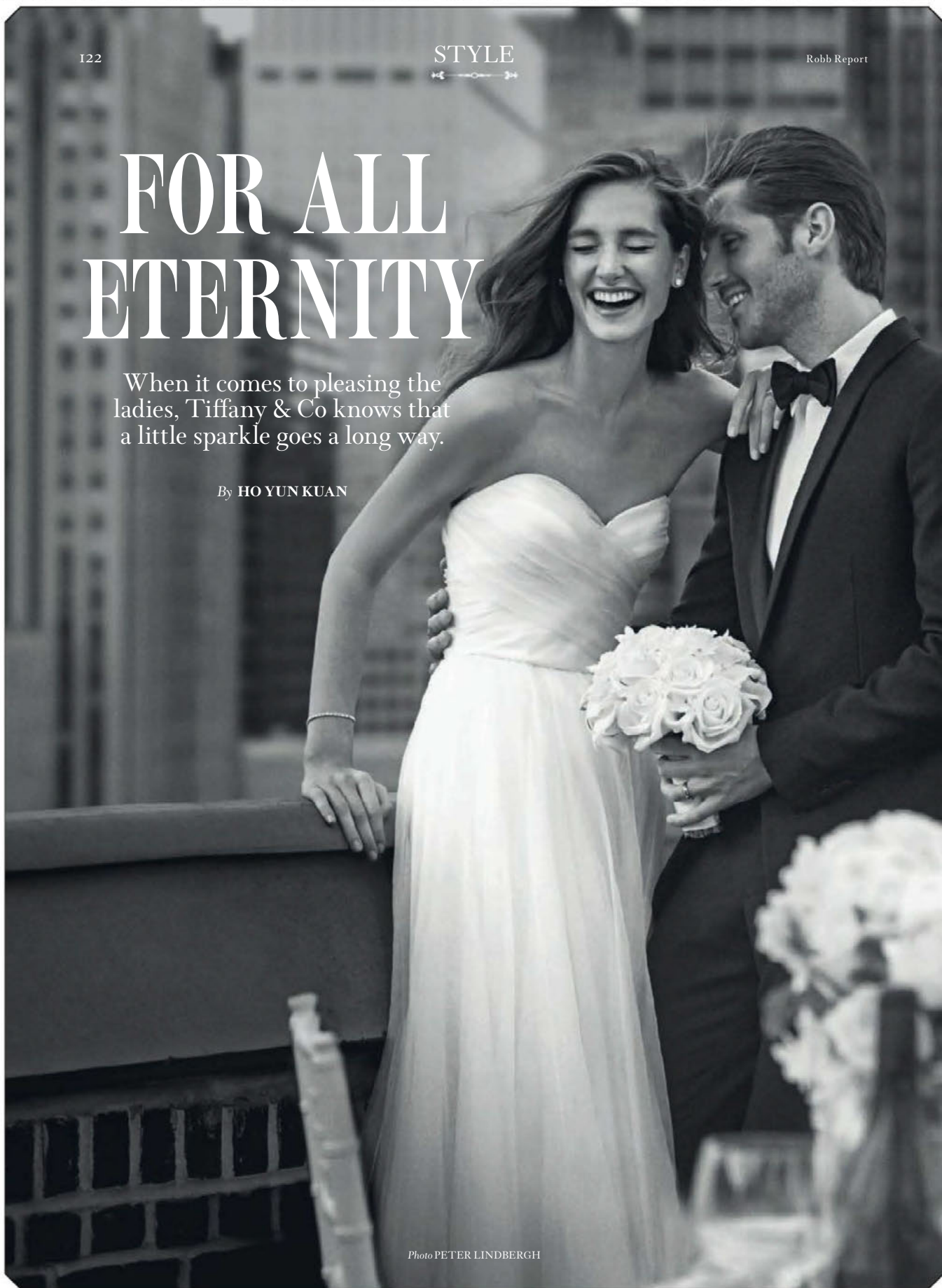
www.fredericmalle.com

FOR ALL ETERNITY

When it comes to pleasing the ladies, Tiffany & Co knows that a little sparkle goes a long way.

By HO YUN KUAN

Photo PETER LINDBERGH



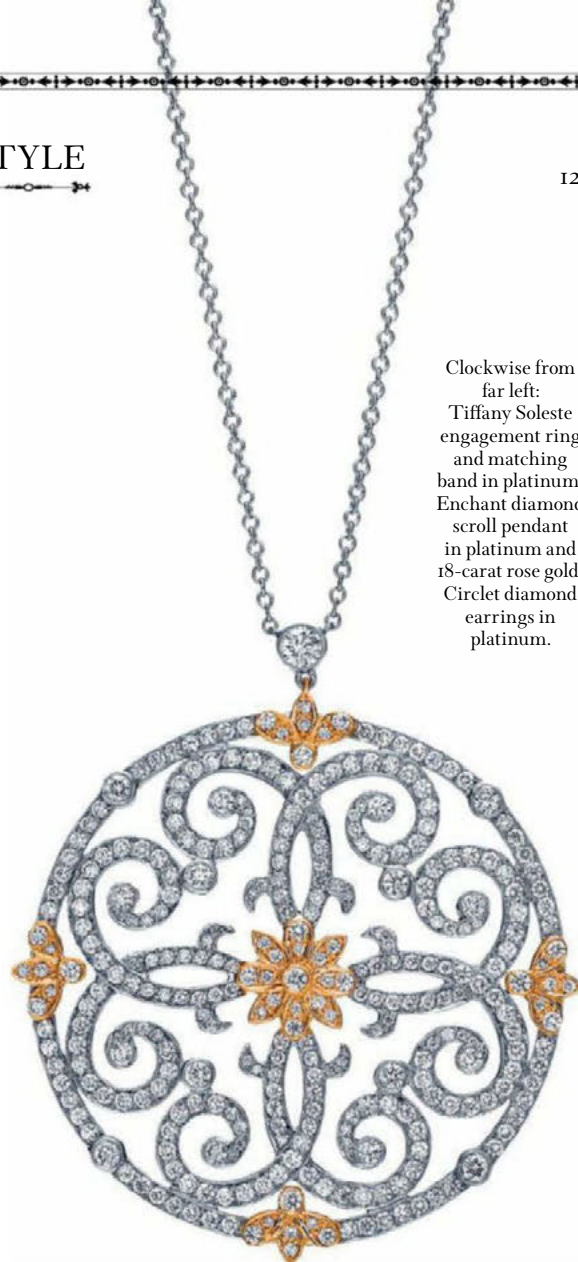


Some things – like diamonds – will never go out of style. The stone is equally dazzling no matter the cut, design or setting style in Tiffany's Enchant, Victoria and Circlet collections.

In Enchant, the white sparkle of the diamonds plays off against the warm tones of the rose gold and enhances the ornate swirling design inspired by the metalwork often found on the gates of Victorian manors. The Victoria collection explores the stylistic possibilities of the marquise cut to create designs that resemble floral chains wrapped around a wrist, neck or finger. Finally, the Circlet range puts diamonds on top of diamonds, surrounded by more diamonds so that the gem's brilliance is shown off to its best potential.

The stone's versatility and popularity make diamond jewellery the best gift to celebrate any special occasion. Whether it is an anniversary, engagement or 'just because', even the least inspired of men can choose the right gift as long as it's set with a diamond.

www.tiffany.com



Clockwise from far left: Tiffany Soleste engagement ring and matching band in platinum; Enchant diamond scroll pendant in platinum and 18-carat rose gold; Circlet diamond earrings in platinum.

Even the least inspired of men
can choose the right gift as
long as it's set with a diamond.



DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

Snyper's second generation of its flagship timepiece gets an edgy new look.



By HO YUN KUAN

Snyper Two is the latest addition to the Snyper family. The brand claims that this is the daredevil of its watches – tougher, stronger and more foolproof. It certainly looks the part, with a recessed dial on Snyper Two Steel (\$9,800, above left) that makes the stainless steel bezel and case, finished in two different ways, seem all the more prominent. The satin finish on the bezel creates a sheen that follows its curved contours, while the case's vertical and horizontal one adds a subtle contrast.

Slightly unusual for Snyper is the addition of a citrus shade in the Snyper Two Orange (\$11,800, above right) – the brand usually goes with red accents. Like with all Snyper timepieces, the black PVD-coated case is machined from a single block of metal. A carbon fibre dial complements the watch's sporty appearance, and its rubber strap comes with matching orange stitching.

In Singapore, both timepieces are available exclusively at E'Collezione.

www.snyperwatches.com

GONE FISHING

Jaquet Droz's latest timepiece makes a splash.



By HO YUN KUAN

Beautiful, hardy and strong, the koi holds important symbolic meaning in Chinese and Japanese cultures. Its qualities are alluded to in the Chinese legend of the Dragon Gate, which tells of a carp that managed to swim upstream, overcoming waterfalls and strong currents to arrive at the top of a mountain on which the Dragon Gate is situated. Upon accomplishing this feat, the fish turned into a mighty dragon.

The noble koi is given pride of place on Jaquet Droz's Petite Heure Minute Relief Carps timepiece. Three carps swim in waters of transparent blue enamel, over waves engraved in gold. On the banks, reed stems, also in gold, wave at hand-engraved birds in the sky. A three-dimensional gold lotus is a perfect finishing touch.

Just 28 pieces of this 41mm timepiece are available worldwide. www.jaquet-droz.com

DESIGN FAST TRACK

Autoban is the most exciting multidisciplinary studio to emerge from Turkey in the past decade.

By DIONNE BEL

For architect Seyhan Ozdemir and interior designer Sefer Caglar, Autoban – the name of the studio they founded in 2003 – means much more than the German word for “highway”. It represents the discovery of new horizons. Credited with redefining Istanbul’s cityscape, they have designed the interiors of the Witt Suites, a string of restaurants and the Turkish Airlines CIP Lounge at Ataturk Airport. Their portfolio now extends to London, Madrid, Hong Kong and Moscow. They are also known for their architectural projects such as The House Café at Istanbul’s Kanyon mall and products





“Design must help people
to evolve their lives.”

Autoban designed a 40sqm
installation exclusively
for Maison&Objet Paris
that captured the ethos of
the Union collection in an
immersive, domestic setting.



The Union sofa is available in American black walnut, American white oak or European ash.
Inset:
close-up of the Union bed.

such as the Box sofa fashioned, naturally, from a wooden box.

Ozdemir and Caglar met in 1995 as students at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, graduating with a strong grounding in the Bauhaus style as their school was filled with German architects. As

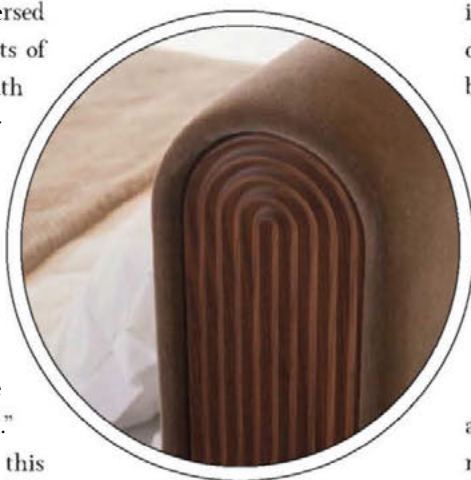
year, Autoban presented Union, a new collection comprising a sofa and bed, for furniture manufacturer De La Espada. While their previous furniture and lighting lines have stemmed from their commercial projects, Union is focused on form and comfort for private homes with

its rounded silhouettes and use of soft, tactile natural materials. Ozdemir notes: "Most of our products are based on our interiors projects. When we create a story for a project, we complete the story with our products, but this collection is different. It's for residential

Union is focused on form and comfort for private homes with its rounded silhouettes and use of natural materials.

Caglar's father ran a furniture-making business, the pair immersed themselves in the ins and outs of the trade and spent hours with local manufacturers. Ozdemir says: "We are losing local techniques, manufacturing processes and craftsmanship, so we always want to find local craftsmen and support them. At the same time, we use technology and innovative materials. We like to mix them."

At Maison&Objet in Paris this



purposes and it creates its own identity in a space." Autoban also debuted the Maze table featuring a bold, graphic aesthetic that uses the intersection of two patterns, playing on a series of optical illusions. A contemporary take on *kundekari* – a time-honoured woodworking technique from the Anatolian Seljuk and Ottoman eras – the table also embodies their architectural approach to design and their characteristic layering of materials, geometry and textures.

“We like to work on public commercial projects because they’re not just for one person, but for many people.”

Ozdemir says: “We like to work on public commercial projects because they’re not just for one person, but for many people, for humanity. It’s important that our projects create a new

social life for the location. Design must help people to evolve their lives. This is the responsibility of architects and designers. We try to add value to people’s lives, to make them better.” autoban212.com

Wallpaper
selected Autoban,
represented by
Sefer Caglar
(left) and Seyhan
Ozdemir, as one
of its top five best
young designers in
the world in 2004.



ON FORM

Ahead of the curve in design and utility, Crown Green Square is poised to become Sydney's new icon.

By JENNIFER CHOO

Visually arresting, edged with a cascading facade at one angle and fluid lines wrapping around the other, the yet unbuilt Crown Green Square by Sydney-based Crown Development took home the award for NSW Best Concept Design by the Urban Development Institute of Australia in August last year.

This luxury 401-apartment mixed-use development designed by Koichi Takada Architects includes retail spaces, a ground-floor conference centre, an infinity pool, spa, gym, music rooms and a theatre.

Its unique looped shape and a void in its north-facing facade allow sunlight to penetrate a central landscaped plaza and apartment balconies. A tiered apartment structure on the south side – complete with lush gardens – will provide year-round daylight to south-facing apartments. A 1,180sqm open-air plaza features an urban oasis of gardens. This unique development is a part of Sydney's new Green Square Town Centre, a residential, retail and cultural hub to be built over the next four years. www.crowngroup.com.au



LET THERE BE LIGHT

There's usually no reason to look twice at a venetian blind, unless it was made by Hunter Douglas.

Hunter Douglas introduced roller shades in 1970. Its current range of Nano roller blinds are designed for turn-and-tilt windows.



By GWEN LEE

In 1919, an entrepreneur named Henry Sonnenberg founded a machine tool distribution and manufacturing company in Dusseldorf, Germany. In 1933, just as Hitler came to power, Sonnenberg made the bold move of relocating his business abroad. Transporting his entire stock of machinery in 150 railroad cars to an abandoned shipyard in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, Sonnenberg re-established his machine tool company outside Nazi Germany. In 1940, to further expansion, the enterprising businessman once again moved his operations.

This time, his new base was the US, where he founded the Douglas Machinery Company. Six years later, he went into a joint venture with Joe Hunter and invented the first 50mm-thick venetian blinds from aluminium slats. Hunter Douglas, the multinational company famed for its upmarket window treatments as we know it, was born.

Today, Hunter Douglas doesn't just supply venetian blinds to private home owners.

Its range of innovative blinds and architectural treatments can be found complementing commercial projects all over the world. For instance, Dubai's Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest man-made structure, is fitted with the company's motorised blinds



From above:
the world's first venetian blinds;
a machine used by Henry
Sonnenberg in the 1940s.



**Hunter Douglas
products also
distinguish themselves
from their competitors
with their ease of use
and safety features.**

and MDF made-to-measure ceiling systems.

The secret of Hunter Douglas's success lies in its history of innovation and commitment to R&D. In 1985, in response to the US



energy crisis, the company launched its line of Duette Honeycomb Shades. With a unique honeycomb construction, these shades are highly energy-efficient. The built-in insulating layers reduce thermal heat gain in summer and heat loss in winter, while serving as a sound buffer. Not content to rest on their laurels, the designers at Hunter Douglas improved on the honeycomb concept to



Henry Sonnenberg invented the first 50mm-thick venetian blinds from aluminium slats in 1946.

enlarge the Duette range with the Architella in 2006 and the Architella Trielle in 2012. With six layers of fabric creating five pockets of insulation, the latter offers the industry's highest level of energy

efficiency to date. Noted for their beauty, Hunter Douglas products also distinguish themselves from their competitors with their ease of use and safety features. Other than a retractable cord system,

which eliminates unsightly dangling cords, its LiteRise cordless system allows users to raise and lower the shade by hand, thus enhancing child safety. For the ultimate control, the Platinum Technology Motorization allows blinds to be adjusted precisely via remote controls.

With major operational centres

established in Europe, North America, Asia, Latin America

and Australia, the 96-year-old company remains the market leader in window blinds and coverings. Thanks to Hunter Douglas, sunlight has never looked so good. www.hunterdouglas.com

ROYAL CANVAS

This summer, British contemporary artist Anish Kapoor turns the gardens of Chateau de Versailles upside down.

By DIONNE BEL

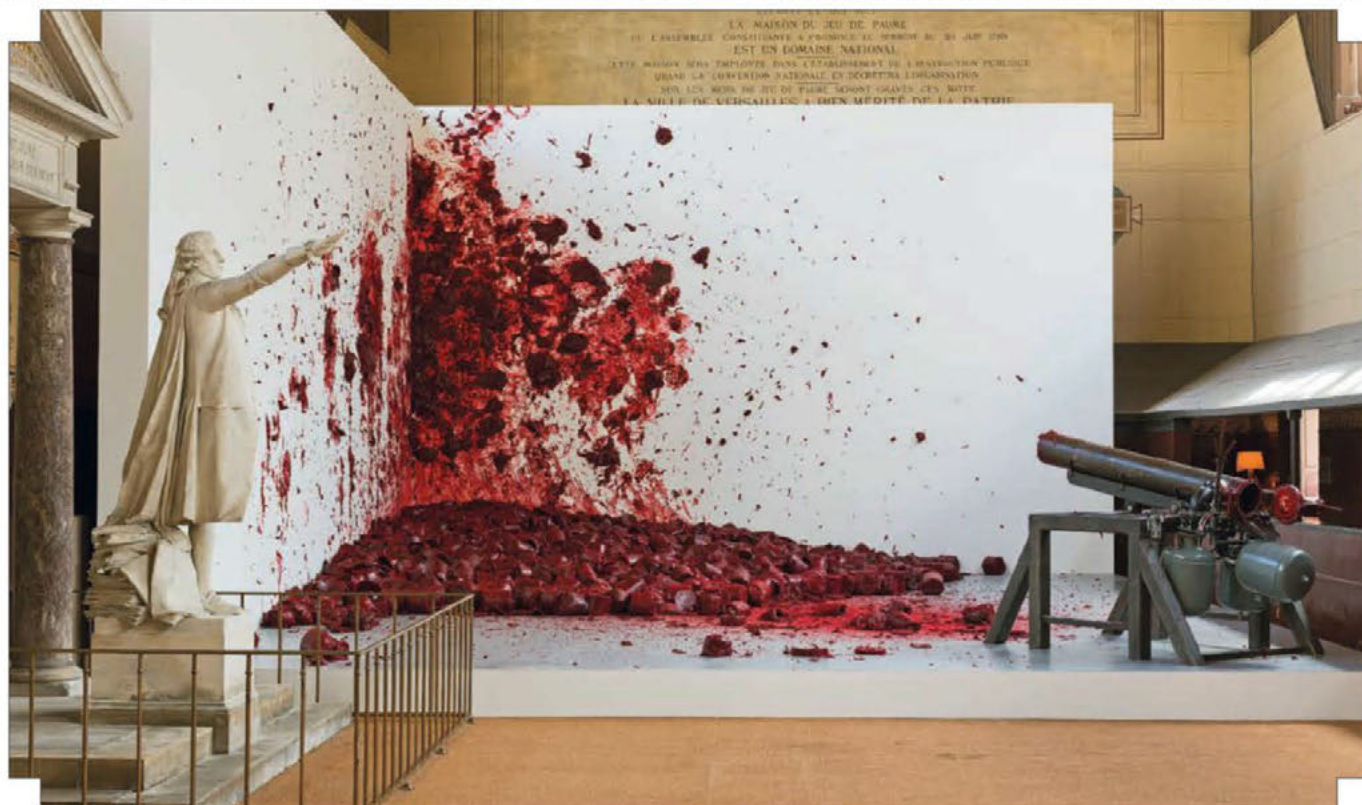
It is always with great trepidation that artists take on the 17th-century Chateau de Versailles. Perhaps it is the sheer scale and majesty of the palace and its grounds designed by Andre Le Notre emanating the immense power of Louis XIV, which instil fear in the hearts of those who dare to leave their imprint. However, when Anish Kapoor was invited to exhibit site-specific sculptures in the palace's gardens, the artist looked upon the task not with apprehension but with excitement and contemplation.

The result is an exhibition, which runs until 1 November, developed especially for the legendary surroundings and their unique historical qualities. Exhibition curator, Alfred Pacquement, notes: "Kapoor revives through the chosen sculptures some of the themes that have fed the imagination of the centuries which unfolded here: the magic of ruins, the energy of flowing waters, the symbolic strength of the sun, the secret of the groves, the reflection of mirrors, the conquest of freedom."

Photos FABRICE SEIXAS, TADZIO, ANISH KAPOOR 2015

Anish Kapoor's exhibition at Chateau de Versailles takes him back to Paris, where he held his first solo show in 1980.





In *Shooting into the Corner*, with its wax-firing cannon, colour explodes violently as if blood and entrails are spilling out.

In *Shooting into the Corner*, with its wax-firing cannon, colour explodes violently as if blood and entrails are spilling out. C-Curve is composed of mirrors, which are central to the palace but now distort it, flipping it upside down.

To the imposed order of Le Notre's Versailles, the 61-year-old Mumbai-born and London-based artist brings a certain chaos. He describes *Dirty Corner*, installed on the Green Carpet, as follows: "Le Notre's rational order refuses the romantic. He is showing us a mind object where the mess of nature is obscured or hidden ... I will flay the Green Carpet, lay it open like a dismembered body, remove its skin ... Like a body lying on the ground with its legs open, unclear as to whether it's a male object or a female object. A construction site



From top:
Shooting into the Corner;
Dirty Corner.

being built or arrested in decay, we are unclear. I want confusion. The very opposite of all the garden sets up for us." The 60m-long, 10m-high rusted steel sculpture with its orifice resembling the flared bell of a musical instrument was nicknamed 'queen's vagina' and stirred much controversy among conservative groups. It was found vandalised with yellow spray paint just days after it was presented, which goes to show how Kapoor's creations are often fascinating yet destabilising.

He once said: "I do not want to make sculpture about form – I wish to make sculpture about belief, or about passion, about experience." And he has succeeded in doing just that with the unique canvas that is Chateau de Versailles, leaving nobody indifferent. en.chateauversailles.fr

THE TASTEMAKERS

In Hong Kong, the combination of fine art and fine dining sparks the imagination.

By JACKIE CARADONIO

At the third annual Art Basel Hong Kong in March, one of the hottest openings was Hong Kongese, an exhibition presented by London's Institute of Contemporary Arts. Instead of a traditional gallery or a frenzied fair booth, the show was held at Duddell's (duddells.co) in

Central. This occasion was not the first time Duddell's became centre stage for Hong Kong's art scene. Since the two-storey space opened in 2013, Alan Lo—one of its co-founders—has worked with the city's top curators and consultants to organise up to four exhibitions per year. "It's not just about hanging pretty pictures on the

The Popsy Room hosted Tracy Lee Griffith's exhibition, *Ribbons & Skulls*, from 12 May to 25 July.



wall," he says. "This is a place that takes art as seriously as it does food." Indeed, exhibitions at Duddell's have been curated by such big names as Ai Weiwei and the Dutch art critic Inti Guerrero. And the cuisine – a faithful rendition of traditional Cantonese – is likewise significant, earning its second Michelin star in October. As Hong Kong's creative culture flourishes, Duddell's clever mix of fine art and fine dining represents the vanguard of a new genre of restaurants that offers serious cuisine and exhibits (though rarely sells) highly collectible contemporary artwork. At Bibo (www.bibo.hk), a French eatery that debuted last year, chef Mutaro Balde presents dishes such as pan-fried Hokkaido scallops with bok choy and chorizo in a room filled with original and commissioned works by Takashi Murakami, Jeff Koons and Jean-Michel Basquiat. Paintings by Damien Hirst hang in the men's bathroom.

Nearby, in the city's PMQ centre, chef




Adrian Wong's *Hypnagogia V* takes pride of place in the bar area of Aberdeen Street Social. Below: entering Duddell's is like being welcomed into the eclectic home of a seasoned art collector.

"It's not just about hanging pretty pictures on the wall. This is a place that takes art as seriously as it does food."

Jason Atherton's newest Hong Kong restaurant, Aberdeen Street Social (www.aberdeenstreetsocial.hk), serves modern British cuisine alongside an art collection that includes a large-scale commissioned mural by Adrian Wong. "The space at PMQ is so inspiring," says Yenn Wong, the restaurateur behind all three of Atherton's Hong Kong venues. "It's always bustling with creative people." Also last year, the Hong Kong-based curator Jennifer Chung opened The Popsy Room (thepopsyroom.com) in Sheung Wan.



This "multi-sensorial space", as Chung calls it, operates as a gallery by day and a French restaurant by night, serving multicourse tasting menus whose dishes complement specific works of art.

Paintings by US artist Tracy Lee Griffith, for example, have been paired with dishes like a scallop tartare topped with colorful streaks of mango and strawberry sauce. The dish and the art "are equally important", Chung says. "The food is the communication tool for the art." 

IN FINE TIME

*Robb Report Malaysia demonstrates the finest
in Saxon watchmaking for 2015 in Penang.*

By KENNETH TAN



A. LANGE & SÖHNE
GLASHÜTTE I/SA



(1) Guests were hosted by Robb Report at The Cellar of Macalister Mansion (2) The 2003 Chateau Du Tertre Margaux recalled dark cherry jam and smoke herbs (3) Design accents at Macalister Mansion (4) Louis XIII of Remy Martin provided a long, rich finish to the night (5) Wines gave way to cigars as brands such as Cohiba, Trinidad and Hoyo made an appearance (6) Chris Leung and Michael von Schlippe (7) Champagne by Perrier-Jouet.



A Lange & Sohne showcased 2015 stunners including its incredible Zeitwerk Minute Repeater and new Lange 1.

Guests of Robb Report Malaysia turned up at Macalister Mansion, Penang in June for an evening of fine drinks and high-end watchmaking. Robb Report Malaysia's contributing expert for wines and spirits, Zephyr Tan, curated an esteemed list of Perrier-Jouet champagne and French red wines such as the 2003 Chateau Du Tertre



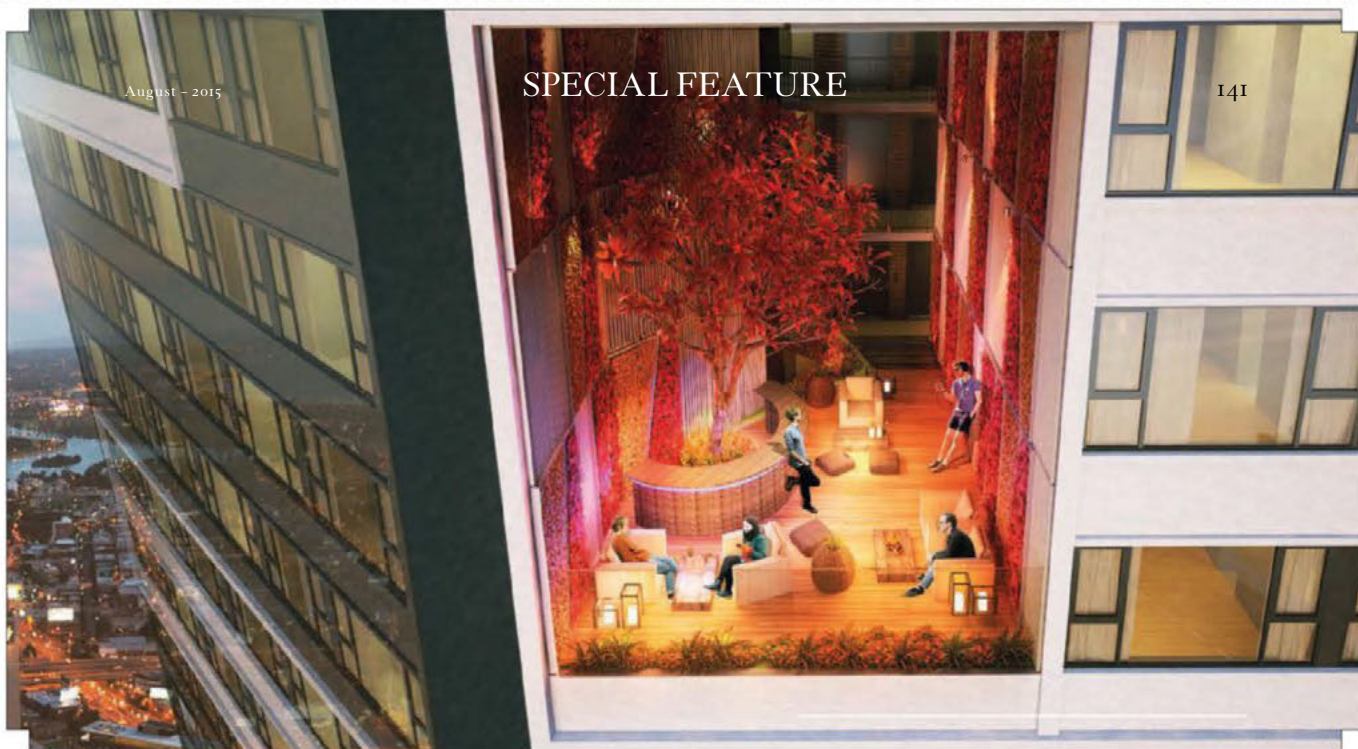
Margaux and 2005 Chateau L'arrivet Haut-Brion. Chris Leung, the technical trainer of Lange Akademie, presented the watchmaker's amazing array of 2015 novelties. This first-time reveal of the actual timepieces in Penang – and indeed all of Malaysia – included its incredible Zeitwerk Minute Repeater, the new Lange 1, Saxonia Dual Time and Datograph Perpetual in white gold. 

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

Ong & Ong showcases its creative vision from Johor Bahru to Ho Chi Minh City.

By KENNETH TAN





In his home country, Ching manages large-scale condominium and multi-use projects in the Iskandar region such as the 408-unit Crescent Bay Suites.

Ong & Ong, the architecture, interior and landscape design firm which has celebrated more than four decades of success, boasts a famous Malaysian son. David Ching, its managing director in Vietnam, finds time for almost weekly visits to Malaysia, despite a jet-set lifestyle that sees him hopping between Vietnam, Singapore, Cambodia and Myanmar.

In his home country, Ching manages large-scale condominium and multi-use projects in the Iskandar region such as the 408-unit Crescent Bay Suites. This project was quickly followed by the 450-unit luxury serviced apartment Grandview 360, located on the banks of the Tebrau river basin.

Ong & Ong's design influences permeate the globe; the US, Cyprus and India to name

but a few. With such a wealth of stimuli, a new approach to residential living has emerged. Ching – together with an old friend Kong Li Szu, CEO of remote site management service NorthStar Frontier – coins this philosophy as “live-work-shop-entertain”.

Ching, an urban planner, architect and interior designer rolled into one, is Ong & Ong's entrusted steward in Vietnam. He oversaw the doubling of the firm's office size in the midst of the the country's longest economic downturn.

In Vietnam, Ching leads the team in comprehensive services for landmark projects that include providing local architecture support for this year's opus, the 35-storey glass-and-steel Vietcombank Tower by Pelli Clarke Pelli. “The future belongs to those who persist,” he says.

www.ong-ong.com



From above:
Midas Line in
Johor Bahru;
tranquil
poolside vistas.
Facing page:
Crescent Bay
Suites.

REALTY CHECK

Presenting this month's
hottest properties for
another place to call home.

By ALYWIN CHEW

THE ATLAS BUILDING

This new mixed-use development in London's prime City Fringe area comprises a 40-storey residential tower alongside a 10-storey office building, in addition to a public piazza and retail outlets. There will be a collection of 302 premium apartments up for sale in the residential tower, ranging from one- to three-bedroom units, including penthouses. www.theatlasbuilding.com

Price: From £550,000 (\$1.2 million).





CAILLE BLANC VILLA RESIDENCE

This idyllic mountainside retreat in St Lucia offers a stunning view of the Caribbean Sea. The compound houses five suites with six bedrooms, and the interiors feature an eclectic mix of furnishings from Afghanistan, India, China, Japan and the US. stluciaheaven.com

Price: US\$7.5 million (\$10.1 million).



CHATEAU FORGE DU ROY

Dating back to the 17th century, this classic French property in the quiet Perigord Noir region of the Dordogne comes with six bedrooms, most of which have their own stone fireplaces. Other features include a cosy lounge area, a formal dining room and lush gardens. www.chateauforge-du-roy.com

Price: US\$3.9 million.



THE RESIDENCES BY ANANTARA

Anantara has unveiled its first residential villa development in Phuket. Located along the white sandy expanse of Layan Beach, there are 15 villas – each with its own 21m infinity pool that overlooks the Andaman Sea – up for sale. residences-anantara.com

Price: Upon request.



RALPH WALKER TRIBECA

This New York residence offers 161 luxury apartments, comprising one-to-five-bedroom units. Each apartment comes with three-metre-high ceilings, custom walnut-panelled doors and white oak flooring. ralphwalkertribeca.com

Price: From US\$2.5 million. 🏠



TIME OF THEIR LIVES

Exotic machines and racing legends were a must-see at Goodwood 2015 Festival of Speed.

By KENNETH TAN

Photos MICHAEL COLE/CORBIS

The 2015 Goodwood Festival of Speed was an all-encompassing display of automotive superlatives and irresistible human spirit.



The elegant 1953/2014 Bensport Bentley coupe, nicknamed La Sarthe, was one of the many vintage models on display.

646 UYE



Conceived in 1993 by the Earl of March, who owns the Goodwood Estate in West Sussex, the 2015 Goodwood Festival of Speed was an all-encompassing display of automotive superlatives and irresistible human spirit. The four-day festival attracted its maximum of 150,000 participants, who made the journey to the South Downs for Britain's most spectacular display of automobiles.

From above:
Auto Union Silver
Arrow being
driven by Nick
Mason; 1955 Moto
Guzzi V8.



Beyond the actual aristocrat and bona fide petrolhead Earl of March, many other racing aristocrats headlined the festival including NASCAR legend Richard Petty, 83-year-old Don Garlits in his 1957 Swamp Rat 1 dragster and 85-year-old Sir Stirling Moss who took the wheel of his SLR 722 – the same car in which he won the 1955 Mille Miglia – as he tackled the fabled hill climb.

The crowds were also entertained by a mouth-watering display of racers, supercars and classics, some of which were older than the two world wars. A carnival-like theme ensured plenty of fascination with many marques building giant hospitality booths to display their latest and shiniest. Mazda, which celebrated its 50th year in motor sport, chose this event for the UK debut of its MX-5 sports car.

On the adjacent Cartier Lawn, the jeweller celebrated its 20th anniversary of Style et Luxe with a lavish spread of vintage





The four-day festival attracted its maximum of 150,000 participants.

motorcycles – including a curious 1907 Vindoc Special 5hp with a wicker bath chair. Also in the mix were 322km/hr supercars, as well as modern classics such as the Porsche 911 and Eagle Speedster.

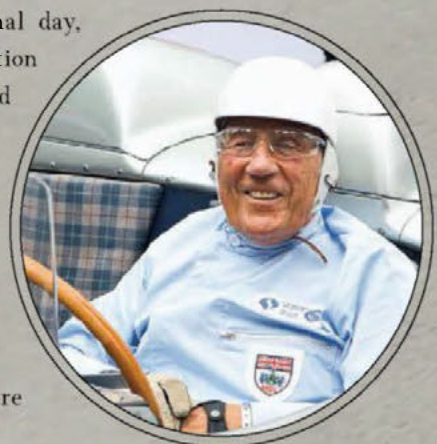
This year, the famous balcony of Goodwood House saw the Earl of March sharing it with first-time festival visitor and nine-time Moto GP World Champion Valentino Rossi, fresh from his Dutch TT win at Assen in the Netherlands. All around, revving and screeching engines set pulses racing in anticipation as did the many outlandish designs of dragsters and souped-up automobiles from a different era. In the earth-shaking 28.5-litre Fiat S76, one

could imagine how gutsy drivers had to be, to drive a flame-spitting 300hp auto – with minimal brakes and a barely-there chassis – in 1911 to achieve the World Flying Mile Land Speed Record.

On the festival's final day, the drivers threw caution to the wind and started burning some serious rubber as they sought to make the 1.86km climb in the quickest time. It was beautiful and sometimes unreal as all manner of automobiles howled, skidded and were



1910 200hp Blitzen-Benz.
Inset:
Sir Stirling Moss
in the 1955 Mille
Miglia-winning
Mercedes Benz 300
SLR.





Inset:
Le Mans star
Emanuele Pirro.

hurled across the nine turns by amateur and professional drivers.

The latter comprised luminaries such as local hero Jenson Button, Mercedes Formula One driver Nico Rosberg who signed autographs and took selfies with an excited crowd, Kiwi pro drifting sensation 'Mad Mike' Whiddett and Ken Block of Gymkhana 7 fame. Terry Grant stole the show when he flipped his Nissan Juke RS Nismo onto two wheels and smashed the time for fastest mile on a rather novel record, shredding the outside rubber on his two tyres as he clocked two minutes and 10 seconds. This was



a full 35 seconds quicker than his previous record set at the festival in 2011.

Raising the eccentricity was Zef Eisenberg on the Mad Max Turbine Bike, boasting a 545bhp Rolls-Royce 250-C18 helicopter turbine. Capable and proven to surpass 370km/hr, the bike's makers had worried initially that its speedometer might melt due to such rapid acceleration.

Naturally, this being Goodwood – where Rolls-Royce Motor Cars is a famous tenant and the Earl of March sits on the automaker's board – a Roll-Royce Ghost was handed the honour of serving as course car. Built as a left-hand drive so its driver could accurately




The crowds were also entertained by a mouth-watering display of racers, supercars and classics.

gauge the gap with the wicked flint wall on the hill ascent, the Ghost received rapturous applause from the hill pavilions where Rolls-Royce hosted its guests.

Meanwhile, on the Michelin Supercar Run, the Rolls-Royce Wraith added its considerable presence among a scintillating 41-car line-up which included the McLaren P1, Porsche 918 Spyder, LaFerrari, Pagani Huayra, Koenigsegg One:1 and Agera N, Lamborghini Aventador LP750-4 Super Veloce, Aston Martin Vulcan, Bentley

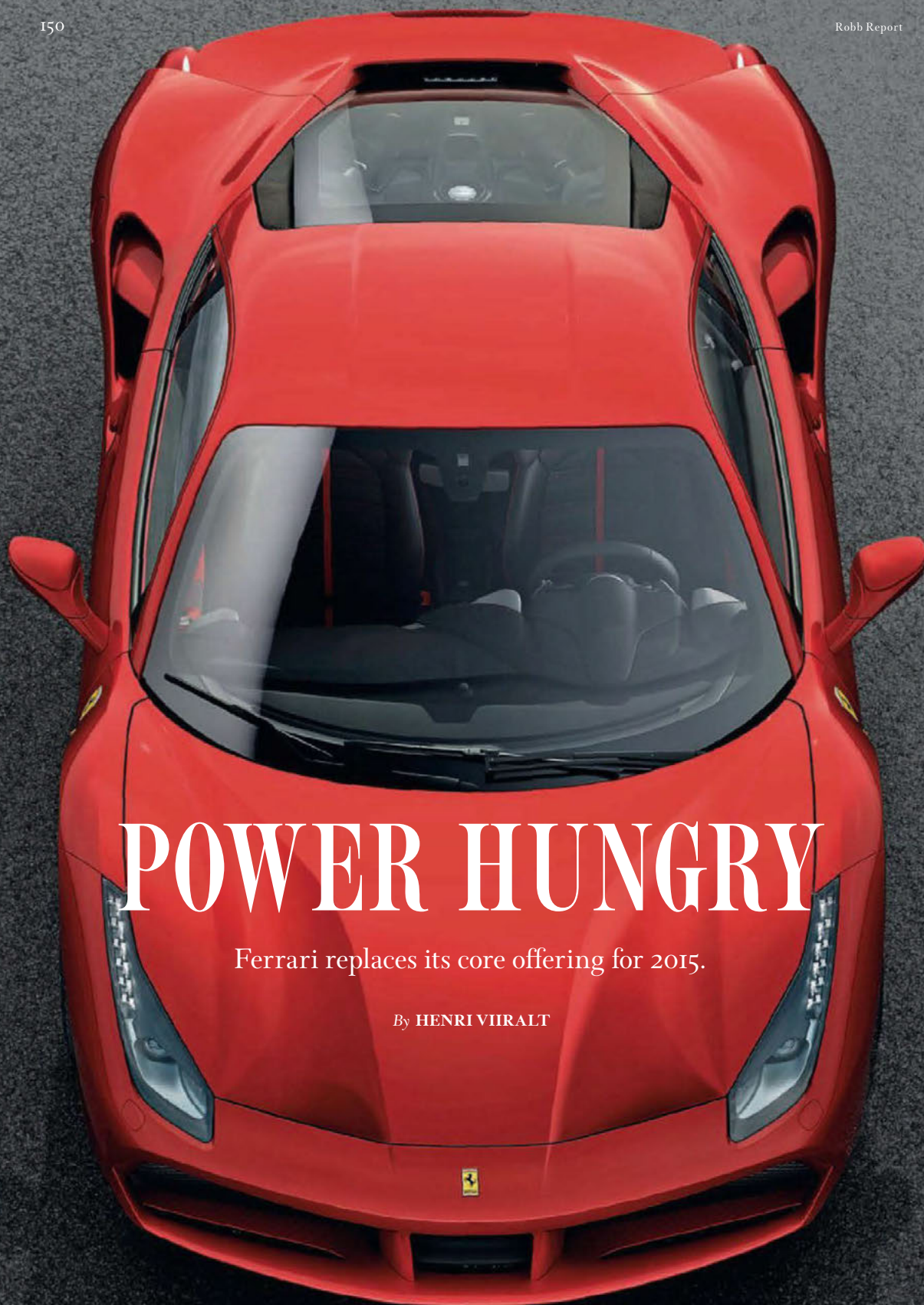
Continental GT, BMW i8, Jaguar F-Type R coupe and Noble M600.

There was time yet for the thunderous crackling of the Typhoon demonstrating its supersonic cruise capabilities, packing 20,000 pounds of thrust in the skies above. Later, the Red Arrows took the stage with aerial acrobatics of slingshots and cyclones, and no short amount of red, white and blue smoke to cap a most extraordinary day in celebration of automotive greats and its living legends.

grrc.goodwood.com 



The godfather of racing, Don Garlits, graced Goodwood with his presence and one of his fabled Swamp Rat dragsters.



POWER HUNGRY

Ferrari replaces its core offering for 2015.

By HENRI VIIRALT



The 488 GTB exploits the know-how gleaned by Ferrari technicians over the last decade through the XX programme which makes extreme track-only cars available to gentleman test-drivers.

Forty years after debuting its first mid-V8 model, the 308 GTB, Ferrari 488 GTB becomes the Prancing Horse's core offering – a segment which accounts for around half of the Italian company's global sales. Ferrari says the 488 GTB will provide track-level performance for non-professional drivers in everyday use, with its response times, nimbleness and aggressive design providing an unforgettable driving experience.

The sculpted flanks and large signature air intake scallop are a tip of the hat to the original 308 GTB. The wide front spoiler



Usability was the key word in the interior design, leading to a sporty ambience.

features a double profile in order to improve thermal efficiency at the sides, and the two pylons at the side are combined with a deflector, which channels air towards the flat unibody.

Classical Ferrari elements such as a clear separation between the dashboard and tunnel, the control bridge and wrap-around seats can be found inside the cockpit. Usability was the key word in the interior design, leading to a sporty and comfortable ambience.

At its core, the new 3,902cc V8 turbocharged engine represents top-of-the-class power output, torque and response times. Its ability to unleash 660hp at 8,000rpm and 760Nm of maximum torque in seventh gear enables the car to sprint from zero to 200km/hr in 8.3 seconds flat.

488gtb.ferrari.com 

FLYING AHEAD

Bentley expands its premium sedan line-up with a V8 option.

By HENRI VIALAT

The Bentley Flying Spur now has a new V8 powertrain to complement the flagship W12 model.

Bentley's renowned four-litre twin turbocharged V8 engine produces 500bhp of power and 660Nm of torque, allowing the vehicle to achieve a century sprint in 5.2 seconds and reach a top speed of 295 km/hr, while offering a range of more than 800km.

The engine is paired with an eight-speed automatic transmission, firing torque to all four corners through a permanent all-wheel-

drive system, with 40 per cent of the engine's output heading to the front axle and the remainder going in the rear. To ensure a smooth, silent ride one would expect from a premium sedan, a computer-controlled self-levelling air suspension system ensures that the car maintains its stability, even when it is driven around corners at speed.

The cabin is kitted out with top-of-the-line materials such as premium leather and intricate machine-turned aluminium trim. In addition, passengers seated in the rear can control a host of features, such as the window blind, climate



Bentley's renowned four-litre twin turbocharged V8 engine produces 500bhp of power and 660Nm of torque.



The Bentley Flying Spur V8 combines an upright grille, large jewel LED headlamps, sharp fender wing vents, a wide body and the Flying Spur's familiar contemporary lines to present a muscular yet elegant exterior design.

conditions and seat heating and ventilation, via the integrated Touch Screen Remote.

Bentley also offers premium customisation options such as a refrigerated bottle cooler, heated steering wheel, contrast stitching and deep-pile floor mats.

www.thailand.bentleymotors.com

MATCH POINT

Hidden among the dramatic limestone karsts of Phang Nga Bay, Como Hotels and Resorts' villas offer a welcoming solitude.

By ALEX CHOMA



It's always a pleasant surprise when the expectations that you inevitably develop during your extensive travels

around

South East Asian resorts don't match what you actually see.

Point Yamu by Como in Phuket is exactly one of these rare gems.

Situated on a hillside and

offering magnificent views of Phang Nga Bay, Point Yamu is a fresh architectural interpretation of Thai luxury. Its interiors,

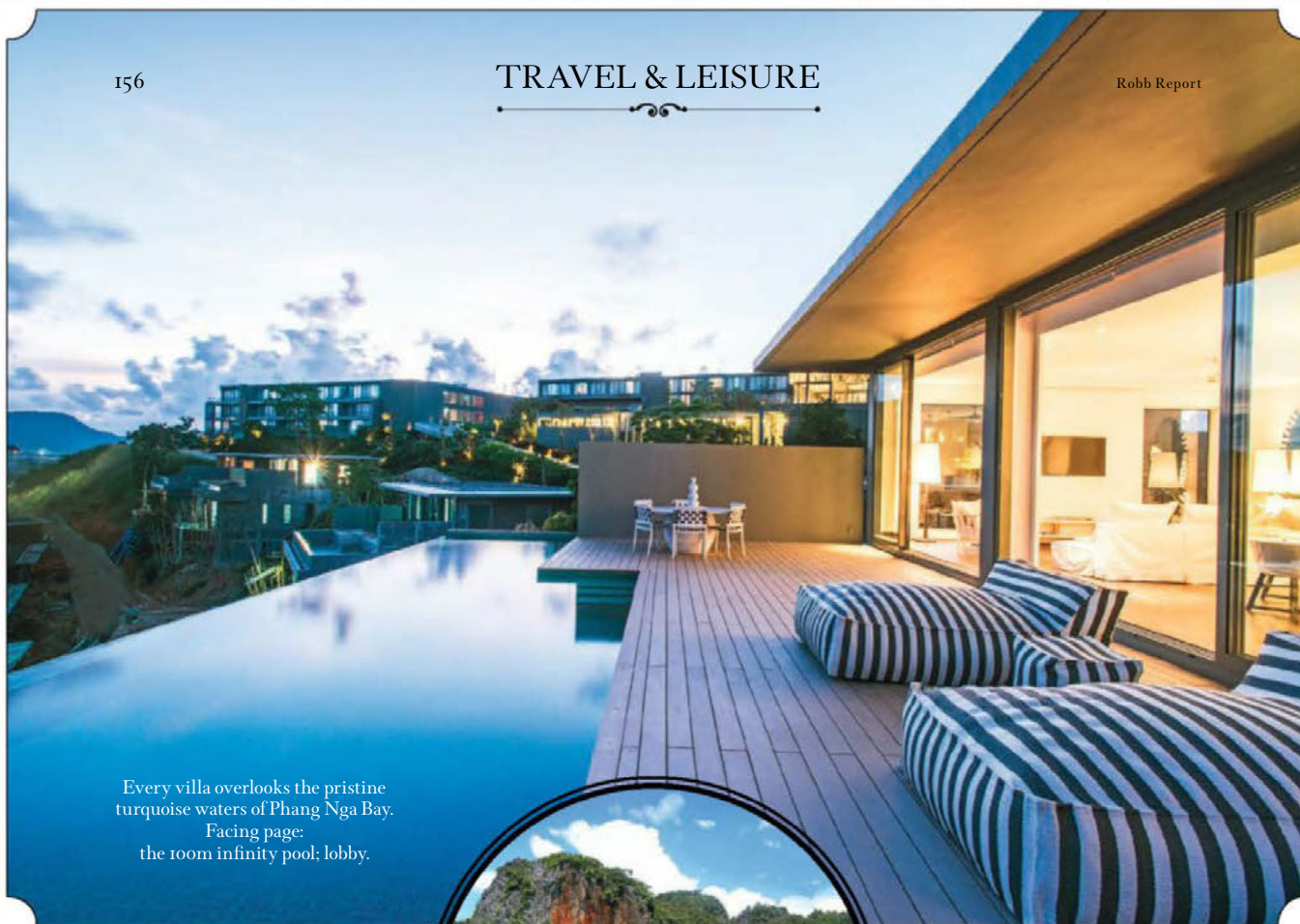
Point Yamu is situated on a hillside and offers magnificent views of Phang Nga Bay.

which were designed by renowned interior designer Paola Navone, are open and airy. The lobby is

an enormous open-air space with an altar-like installation made of stacked Thai tables and huge swaying lobster-trap lampshades.

Point Yamu consists of 79 guest rooms and suites. It also has 27 private pool villas that are available for purchase. The three-bedroom villas have an area of up to

Como Shambhala Retreat offers holistic treatments to improve mental quietude, physical well-being and spiritual balance.



Every villa overlooks the pristine turquoise waters of Phang Nga Bay. Facing page: the room infinity pool; lobby.

705sqm, while the smaller two-bedroom ones have 'only' 248sqm of luxury living space.

The lucky owner will enjoy 60 days of complimentary usage at any time during the year, provided he claims his presence 45 days in advance.

Villa proprietors are entitled to 50 per cent of net revenue from bookings of their villa after deducting booking fees. Owners will also enjoy an array of benefits such as access to the main resort's facilities. Two top restaurants, La Sirena and Nahmyaa, offer Italian and Thai-Peranakan cuisine. The meals could be arranged within the private villas for family celebrations or for parties with friends. Owners can also use the



facilities at Como Shambhala wellness and spa, which include a room infinity pool, fully equipped gym and an activity centre that

Owners will also enjoy an array of benefits such as access to the main resort's facilities.

has many spectacular offers including private boat trips from Marina Pier to the stunning nearby islands.

I was shown some of the villas to get a first-hand impression and I truly felt reluctant to leave one of them. It was situated on the top of a hill and had huge panoramic windows facing both sides of the peninsula, offering magnificent views of Phang Nga Bay, the Andaman Sea and nearby islands. Its to-die-for views are a perfect example of intangible luxury, if you ask me.

Most of the villas have terraces, private pools and spa-like bathrooms. Rooms are flooded with natural light and cooled by sea breezes. All management

services are provided by Point Yamu. This includes the general maintenance of your villa, marketing and accounting as well as management of the common areas.

In summary, Point Yamu is the perfect place for those who seek a family-oriented hideaway, for idyllic sailing around the islands and exploring dreamy lagoons. It's not made for

seaside socialising, shopping or bar-hopping. There are no beaches with maddening crowds but if desired, Phuket, with all its vibrant nightlife, is within easy reach.

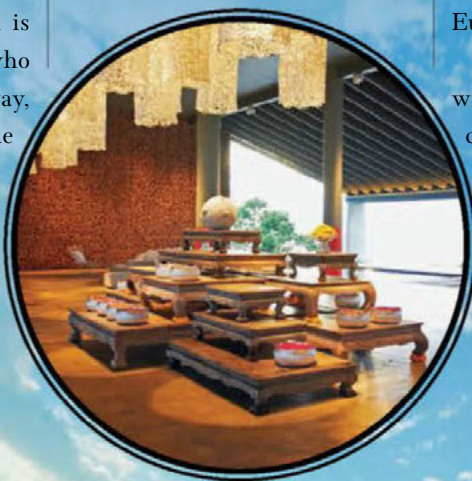
Speaking about accessibility,

despite its detached and remote atmosphere, Point Yamu is just a 25-minute drive from Phuket International Airport.

The island enjoys daily flights from more than 40 cities in Europe, Asia and Australia.

Bangkok and Singapore, with connections to every major city in the world, are just over an hour's flight away.

www.comohotels.com



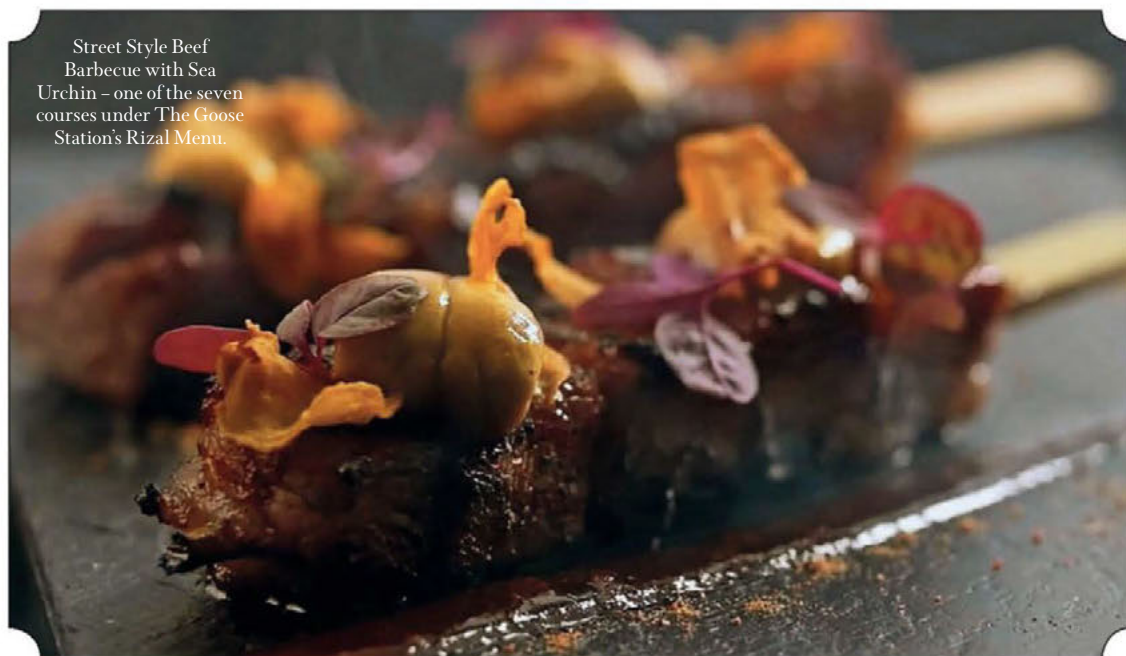
The lobby is an enormous open-air space with an altar-like installation made of stacked Thai tables.

THE RISING STAR OF SOUTH EAST ASIA

Filipino food has been flying under the radar but the flavours from the archipelago are gaining traction worldwide.



Fernando Aracama's well-thought-out menu highlights delicious regional Filipino cuisine with respect for tradition, fresh new ideas and his inimitable sense of humour.



Street Style Beef Barbecue with Sea Urchin – one of the seven courses under The Goose Station's Rizal Menu.

By TIONG LI CHENG

Simon Majumdar, the British-American chef and judge of *Cutthroat Kitchen* and *Iron Chef*, once said in a Filipino magazine interview that he had “underestimated” Filipino cuisine. He called it “one of the few undiscovered culinary treasures left in the world, and if the people of the Philippines attacked the marketing of their food with the same gusto that they apply to eating it, it could be the next culinary sensation”. Another American TV personality, Andrew Scott Zimmern, host of *Bizarre Foods*, told *Today.com* in 2012 that given a few more years, Filipino cuisine would be “the next big thing”.

It looks like Majumdar and Zimmern are on to something. Not

only is Pinoy street food fast gaining traction in the US, there has also been an emergence of chef/region-centred upscale Filipino restaurants in the Philippines. And for the first time, Spanish gastronomy congress, Madrid Fusion, brought together the world’s most prestigious and innovative chefs in Manila earlier this year. Many people see this

event as the major push that would likely catapult Pinoy food onto the international stage.

At the heart of the movement is a bevy of chefs in Manila who are refining Filipino cuisine and bringing it to the next level. Fernando Aracama, for example, applies sophisticated cooking techniques to improve classic dishes such as *Salpicao dela Casa*. Tough and flavourful short ribs are cooked sous vide for 24 hours to tenderise them, then finished in roast garlic and black peppercorn gravy at his eponymous restaurant (www.aracamamanila.com). Aracama, who is also vice president of the LTB Philippines Chefs Association, describes his cooking as traditional and modern. “I am beholden to the

**Robert and
Sunshine Pengson
take inspiration
from Filipino
national heroes.**

honesty of heritage and tradition but I am equally inspired by what I taste, see and feel when I travel and experience another country's culture; and by talking, exchanging ideas and sharing techniques with other chefs," says Aracama.

Others such as husband-and-wife duo Robert and Sunshine Pengson take inspiration from Filipino national heroes like Dr Jose Rizal to present creations that evoke emotions representing periods of his life. At their modern restaurant The Goose Station (www.thegoosestation.com), they offer a manicured style of cuisine that narrates the story of the culture and history of the Philippines. Reviews have been mixed. "Some said it was genius, others literally stood up and left or laughed at me in the middle of my dining room, saying how silly it was," shares Robert.

Most of the main protagonists driving this movement are Filipinos except for Jose Luis Gonzalez, or Chele as he is fondly called, a Spanish chef who cut his teeth with the likes of El Bulli, Arzak, El Celler de Can Roca and Mugaritz. Gonzalez melds modern techniques with indigenous ingredients and a tinge of playfulness to present Filipino food in a global way at Gallery Vask (galleryvask.com). He notes that Filipino food has been very basic so far and is mostly done to please Filipinos. "For Pinoy food to go to the next level, there has to be innovative, avant-garde



Pan de Bagnet – a crisp pork belly sandwich with tomatoes, anchovy and mustasa
– by Claude Tayag.

restaurants that can elevate the country's reputation and achieve a certain level of prestige so the rest of the world can see the potential of the food. On the other hand, from what is the norm and what is in the streets and inside (locals') homes, we should refine, distil and make

it more global so that a foreigner can eat and understand and start to talk about the food," observes Gonzalez.

As chefs push for new frontiers in Filipino cuisine, there has also been a shifting of attitudes among Filipinos towards their own food. Claude Tayag of Bale Dutung (www.baledutung.com)

WHAT IS FILIPINO FOOD?


Filipino cuisine can be defined by a few ingredients: coconut, vinegar and a whole lot of pork. Sourness, more than spiciness, is a defining characteristic of Filipino food. Calamansi is used in a myriad of dishes such as *kinilaw* ceviches, tamarind stirred into *sinigang* soups, and unripe green mangoes eaten with funky *bagoong* fish paste. You will also find vinegar derived from sugar cane and coconut palm in every Filipino kitchen. Used for marinating, braising and glazing, as well as a dip

for entrees and snacks, vinegar is the backbone of *adobo*, a national dish that consists of braised meat, seafood or vegetables in vinegar, soya sauce, garlic and other flavourings. The bold combos of sweet (*tamis*), sour (*asim*) and salty (*alat*) don't quite resemble anything else in South East Asia. Rice is a must at every meal but the Filipino's real love affair is with pork. Porcine obsessions take the form of *lechon*, or suckling pig either deep-fried till crispy or roasted on a spit.



baledutung.com) – the traditional restaurant lauded by Anthony Bourdain for its Pampango food – says that the Filipino diner has come of age. “There has been a rediscovery and appreciation of our own cuisine. If we were our own worst critics before, we are our best ambassadors today,” he says.

Tayag recounts how he was invited to sell pork *sisig* in Makansutra’s World Street Food Congress 2015 in March, alongside Dedet de la Fuente of Pepita’s Lechon and Paul Qui, a Filipino-American from Texas, selling his fish *kinilaw* and chicken *inasal* tacos in a food truck. Tayag shares: “We probably had the longest queues among the 24 vendors coming from different parts of the world. At the farewell party, Makansutra’s founder KF Seetoh approached us saying: ‘Filipino cuisine is so good, man! Why are you hiding it from the world?’”

Filipino cuisine may not be as famous as its neighbouring counterparts, but all that is about to change. 

SAVOUR

Robb Report

CULINARY FIELD TRIP

VASK GALLERY

Combining cutting-edge modern Spanish molecular techniques with indigenous ingredients, some of which even the locals are not familiar with, Jose Luis Gonzalez presents Filipino food in a global way at Vask Gallery.

Choose from two tasting menus, Lakbay and Alamat, which translate to ‘journey’ and ‘legend’.

A must-try is the Pan de Sal buns with smears of coconut butter. The buns are doled out in brown paper bags so they look like they came straight from a local bakery.

Isaw resembles the ubiquitous barbecued skewers of intestines sold in the streets, but is actually deep-fried strands of sweet potato dough.

Gonzalez’s fascination with indigenous edible leaves is evident in his playful and innovative dishes.

Buro, a dish of fermented rice risotto and *maya maya* (red snapper) wrapped in banana leaf and steamed with lemongrass broth, is topped with torn-up pieces of *mustasa* (mustard green) leaves.

Inspired by the Aeta tribe who live on Luzon, Gonzales created Binulo, a sour consomme similar to *sinigang*. He uses the *alibangbang* leaf from Pampanga instead of tamarind, and serves it with a frond of crispy leaf that hides tender *cochinillo* (suckling pig) and brown rice. The cherry on top is the after-dessert: Philippine candies called *pastillas*.

ARACAMA

While it is served in a modern setting, there are no crazy, head-scratching interpretations of Filipino food at Fernando Aracama’s eponymous restaurant. Instead, the chef-owner sticks to finely tuned local cuisine that’s elevated through contemporary techniques and elegant presentations.

Everyday dishes such as *sisig* showcase finely minced pig’s cheek, snout, ears and organs, while Chinese-style spring rolls such as Lumpiang Bangus pack smoked and shredded milkfish, *sotanghon* (glass) noodles and black ear mushrooms within the thinnest, bounciest crepe skin to make every bite a wonderful mishmash of textures. The food is meant for sharing, but you probably want the



Nilasing na Hipon – deep-fried baby shrimps marinated in gin and served with a vinegar dip or garlic aioli – all to yourself. Another winning dish is the Adobo sa Tuba. The charred flavour of the twice-cooked and crisped beef melds perfectly with the dark, savoury *tuba* (coconut sap) vinegar sauce. Crisp

banana chips on the side are a pleasant tropical complement. Ensaladang Talong, a surprisingly smoky dish of grilled eggplant with edamame, is sure to elicit several appreciative gasps at your table. Aracama's signature Choc Nut ice cream, inspired by the childhood chocolate peanut snack, is

more familiar on the palate and makes the perfect sweetened conclusion to the meal.

THE GOOSE STATION

The name of the restaurant is a clever pun on the word 'degustation', but that's not the only stroke of genius at the outfit fronted by husband-and-wife chef duo Robert and Sunshine Pengson. What started as a fine-dining establishment serving haute French-style cuisine in 2009 has transitioned into a more progressive local style when Robert took inspiration from the Philippines' national hero Dr Jose Rizal to come up with dishes that evoke emotions representing periods of the icon's life.

A dish of squab *inasal* with coconut curd, peanut puree, charred eggplant and cane vinegar is splattered with lashings of red beetroot puree to symbolise the tumultuous emotions in Rizal when he penned his provocative novel, *Noli Me Tangere*. Another appetiser of Visayan crab with fermented and fresh mangoes, coconut ice cream, extra virgin coconut oil, coconut sap vinaigrette, pink sorrel and cashews showcases pristine island ingredients before the colonial period. There are two tasting menus at The Goose Station. One is made up of the restaurant's classics and the other is an experimental one that tells the story of the Philippines' culture and history.

Isaw resembles the barbecued skewers of intestines sold in the streets.



The Binondo course at Gallery Vask features *isaw*, Vigan *empanadas* and a *siopao* stuffed with local quail, adobo and sherry.
Facing page:
Jose Luis 'Chele' Gonzalez.



BELLE OF BORDEAUX

At La Grande Maison, Joel Robuchon's menus are as opulent as the region's greatest wines.

By ALEXANDER LOBRANO



This year, the talk of the town is not the latest vintage but La Grande Maison.

There are few places in the world as closely associated with wine as Bordeaux. The picturesque city in south-western France is synonymous the world over with rich, earthy reds and vibrant whites. This year, however, the talk of the town is not the latest vintage but La Grande Maison, the restaurant and boutique hotel that vintner Bernard Magrez and the Michelin-starred French chef Joel Robuchon installed in a handsome 18th-century manor.

Since its opening last December, the restaurant's two Napoleon III-style dining rooms have been booked solid. The demand for tables originates partly with the wine trade, whose luminaries have adopted the new eatery

This and facing pages: at La Grande Maison, chef Joel Robuchon's menu includes a medallion of crabmeat and caviar on crab aspic.



as their preferred gathering place; however, a renewed emphasis on great food among the Bordelaises at large has also contributed significantly to the establishment's success. Although the city has always boasted excellent restaurants, what diners drank there often mattered more than what they ate. Now the tables have turned.

"I wanted to create a restaurant with a great harmony between what you eat and what you drink," says Magrez, the owner of four Grands Crus Classes chateaux in the region and dozens of other estates in France and around the world. "Bordeaux was not only ready for a great new restaurant, it needed one. The city has evolved so much over the last 15 years – it's younger and more worldly than it was before."



Crabmeat photo DEEPIX



From left:
Bernard Magrez
and Joel Robuchon.

Robuchon also anticipated the moment. “I knew there would be a clientele for a serious gastronomic restaurant in Bordeaux,” says Robuchon, who holds 28 Michelin stars. “And speaking as a chef, it’s a gastronomically discerning city with remarkable produce – some of the world’s best lamb comes from Pauillac; the seafood is superb; there are wild mushrooms in season.”

The three dining rooms may be booked for exclusive use so that diners can enjoy complete privacy. Facing page: guinea fowl with roasted foie gras.



These raw materials Robuchon entrusted to his long-time sous chef, Tomonori Danzaki. His contemporary cooking contrasts dramatically with the dining rooms’ velvet banquettes and Baccarat chandeliers. The kitchen’s modern and meticulous approach is evident in such presentations as a medallion of caviar-garnished crabmeat served on a mirror of crab aspic topped with tiny tufts of cauliflower cream decorated with dark-green dots of herbal jus. To accompany these delicacies, diners may select a bottle of wine from one of the best lists in France, which contains 259 Grands Crus Classes de Bordeaux (including prized bottles from Magrez’s crown jewel, Chateau Pape Clement in Pessac), as well as vintages from California, Chile, Morocco and even Japan. But the sweetest finale to an evening of epicurean indulgence is retiring to one of La Grande Maison’s six splendidly appointed guest rooms. www.lagrandemaison-bordeaux.com

**“I knew there would be a clientele for a serious
gastronomic restaurant in Bordeaux.”**



Photo DEEPIX

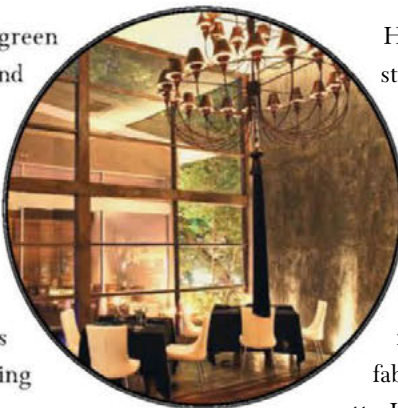
GUESSING GAMES

Neo Tamarind's stylish, cosmopolitan cuisine
has its diners doing double takes and triple tastes.

By RENYI LIM



High up in the nest of green foliage where Neo Tamarind resides on Jalan Sultan Ismail in Kuala Lumpur, it's playtime – or at least, that's the modus operandi of executive chef, Sombat Kokasemkul. His quirky take on classic European and Asian dishes puts a cheeky fusion spin on his training in traditional French cuisine.



His artful, gently humorous 'guess-stronomy' is bound to entertain even the most jaded tastebuds.

The fun doesn't stop there. Diners in the know can traverse the well-stocked cellar (which boasts more than 130 wines) or try their luck by wandering off the menu and requesting Kokasemkul's fabulous jasmine tea-flavoured panna cotta. If they're very fortunate, they might


Every Neo Tamarind guest is encouraged by Kokasemkul to “put it in your mouth and take a wild guess”.

Whether it's a pan-seared tower of scallops and foie gras with creamy tom yum-infused foam or a slice of Norwegian salmon, masterfully roasted in the kitchen's firewood oven and adorned with tomato salsa, every Neo Tamarind guest is encouraged by Kokasemkul to “put it in your mouth and take a wild guess”.

From above:
pan-seared scallops
and foie gras;
Neo Tamarind.
Facing page:
Sombat
Kokasemkul.

be treated to a sample of Neo Tamarind's smoky house-made plum sake. Urban night owls can also soak up the restaurant's rustic-luxe atmosphere on Friday and Saturday nights during its I Like It Deep evenings – aided, of course, by generous helpings of insanely moreish spicy tom yum popcorn.

www.tamarindrestaurants.com 



Adria has paired with
the champagne house's
chef de cave Richard
Geoffroy, collectively
conjuring projects such
as This Is Not A Dinner.

CREATIVE SPARKS

Ferran Adria's partnership with Dom Perignon is a match made in champagne heaven.

By MARK LEAN

Yuzu-cru with caviar (inset), one of the snacks created by Ferran Adria (facing page with Richard Geoffroy) using Dom Perignon's 2005 vintage for a This Is Not A Dinner event in Tokyo.



In 2011, just before Ferran Adria closed El Bulli, the restaurant which he made universally renowned, the Spaniard gave a quiet hint of his future plans. Months before, he created a final dinner at his restaurant for Dom Perignon. And in 2014, the champagne brand's presence was noticed again during the premiere night of Adria's Notes on Creativity, an exhibition at the Drawing Centre in New York.

Since then, Adria through his elBullifoundation has paired with the champagne house's chef de cave Richard Geoffroy, collectively conjuring projects such as This Is Not A Dinner – a symbiosis of Adria's out-of-this-world laboratory-created snacks – first conceived at el Bulli in 1994.

This effort has since evolved into 400 original recipes with Dom Perignon's superlative 2005 vintage. The champagne is derived from the house's novel concept of Plenitudes, one of several standout vintages that continue to mature, revealing its multi-faceted personalities as time goes by.

www.domperignon.com



RAISING THE STEAKS

Marble 8 elevates the art of grilling to sheer perfection.

By RENYI LIM

All of Marble 8's beef is carefully selected by its chefs and specially flown in from Australia, where it's sourced from one of the world's largest beef providers.





The Wagyu Tomahawk steak has been dry-aged for a minimum of 21 days.



Let's get one thing straight: Marble 8 is a carnivore's playground. It's a thoroughly grown-up play area too, with the chiller room in full view of the custom-made leather chairs and tables positioned around the steakhouse, offering a tantalizing glimpse of ageing prime cuts of Wagyu and Angus beef.

Amuse yourself with a mai tai at next door's M8 bar, then delve into the roasted bone marrow with parsley lemon gremolata and porcini balsamic jus to quiet your growls of anticipation as you await the Wagyu Tomahawk steak (RM1,480 for 1,600g), dry-aged for a minimum of 21 days.

Its arrival from the grill – juicy, yielding under a sharp knife and pink at its thickest

points – will send you into a feeding frenzy. Pair it with a selection of salts, mustards and sauces, and of course, don't forget the glorious sides. Steak fries with truffle mayonnaise, creamed English baby spinach, crispy onion rings and Rucala salad with Asian pear are the ideal supporting cast for the star attraction.

You could ask for the beef fat to be sent back to the kitchen and caramelized. They'll even slice the remaining meat off the Tomahawk bone for you, unless you'd like to pick it up with both hands and gnaw on it, paleo-style. Try not to get too carried away – you might have to treat yourself to a cigar in Prive Lounge upstairs once you're sated.

www.marble-8.com

BRIGHT HOPE

Terence Ong, managing director for Pernod Ricard Malaysia, lights the way for the underprivileged.



By KENNETH TAN

Since graduating from the University of London with a degree in law, Terence Ong has worked with Seagram, Imperial Tobacco and Pernod Ricard through a career that spans Malaysia, Cambodia and China. Now, as managing director of Pernod Ricard Malaysia, Ong is helming an ambitious CSR campaign by upcycling bottles to help underprivileged families with a basic necessity – light.

During a charity drive, I came across families living in Kuala Lumpur's outlying areas with no access to electricity. This desperate situation is even more prevalent for East Malaysia, where many settlements are far away from power sources.

It took us many months in collaboration with social innovation organisation Biji-biji to come up with a reasonable RM350 solar-powered lamp. Using LED bulbs in a bottle filled with water and vinegar – the latter to increase luminance – we finally had a cost-effective solution which also encourages people to think about how glass bottles can be rescued from the landfill.





We are now engaging trade partners to collect empty bottles. These bottles will be repurposed as brightboxes, which is what we call them. Our initial commitment is for 1,000 pieces, but we're hopeful more partners and the public will continue to adopt brightboxes in support of this initiative.



and vaccines, and employs a travelling doctor to reach remote villages. CSR is naturally a big part of what we do, with our continuing Don't Drink and Drive campaign as well as the recent RM2.3 million donation drive for the Nanyang Foundation.


This year is a big one for us to mark the 300th

"Our Bottled Hope Run helped increase awareness for the current project."

Our motivation is to give recipients a welcome light in the dark. Many are using oil lamps and candles, which are dim and a fire hazard.

When I was based in China, I saw our bottles were transformed into glass polymers and then made into industrial carpets. In India, Pernod Ricard pays for medication

Terence Ong and his Pernod Ricard Malaysia team at the successful conclusion of the fully subscribed Bottled Hope Run.

anniversary of Martell. But beyond giving back to loyal customers for their support, we intend to build on our CSR platform. Our Bottled Hope Run helped increase awareness for the current project. People turned up for workshops on building brightboxes, upcycling bottles and reducing carbon footprint. 



A Lange & Sohne

Sincere Fine Watches

#2.01.07

Pavilion Kuala Lumpur

03 2141 8418

www.alange-soehne.com

Audemars Piguet

UG29, Adorn Floor

Starhill Gallery

03 2144 8639

www.audemarspiguet.com

Bentley

#2.68.00

Pavilion Kuala Lumpur

03 2162 2033

www.bentleykualalumpur.com

Breguet

LL1, Main Lobby

JW Marriott Hotel Kuala Lumpur

183 Jalan Bukit Bintang

03 2142 3788

www.breguet.com

Breitling

#2.03.00, Level 2

Pavilion Kuala Lumpur

03 2141 2571

www.breitling.com

Cartier

#C-G05 & #105A

Suria KLCC Shopping Centre

03 230 5088

www.cartier.com

Chopard

#2.24.00 & #3.26.00, Level 2 & 3

Pavilion Kuala Lumpur

03 2145 3611

www.chopard.com

Christofle

G118, Ground Floor

Bangsar Shopping Centre

03 2282 5985

eu.christofle.com

Cire Trudon

Kens, Ground Floor

G102 & G103A

Bangsar Shopping Centre

03 2093 6306

www.ciretrudon.com

De Beers

G39A

Suria KLCC Shopping Centre

03 2166 8863

www.debeers.com

Emperor's Fine Jewels

F7, Explore Floor

Starhill Gallery

03 2142 0388

emperorsfinejewels.com

Ferrari

Naza Italia

Lot 3, Jalan 15A/ 221, Petaling Jaya

03 7956 8599

www.ferrari.com

Fritz Hansen

Xtra Furniture

#S-236 & #237

The Gardens Mall

03 2282 9088

www.fritzhansen.com

Giorgio Armani

#LC-G03

Suria KLCC Shopping Centre

03 2166 7003

www.armani.com

Harry Winston

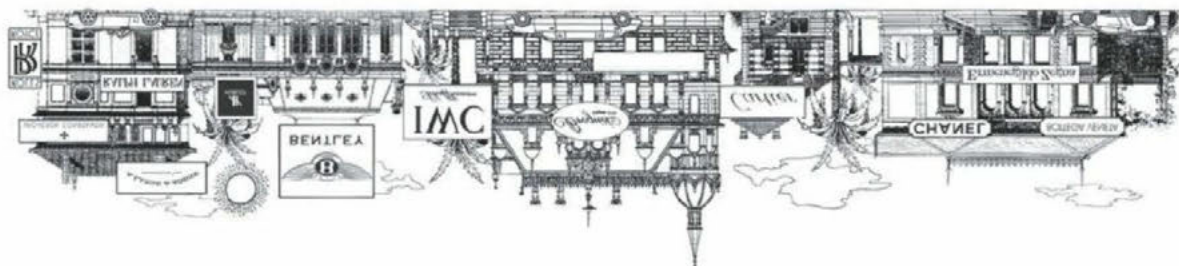
Cortina Watch Malaysia

UG19, Adorn Floor

Starhill Gallery

03 2142 1171

www.harrywinston.com



**IWC Schaffhausen**

#3.40.00
Pavilion Kuala Lumpur
03 2142 7999
www.iwc.com

Jaeger-LeCoultre

G36, Indulge Floor
Starhill Gallery
03 2303 6088
www.jaeger-lecoultre.com

Louis Poulsen

Xtra Furniture
#S-236 & #237
The Gardens Mall
03 2282 9088
www.louispoulsen.com

MB&F

The Hour Glass
#2.41.00
Pavilion Kuala Lumpur
03 2148 8930
www.mbandf.com

Montblanc

#2.18.00 & #3.20.00
Pavilion Kuala Lumpur
03 2144 3323
www.montblanc.com

Nobu Kuala Lumpur

Level 56, Menara 3 Petronas
Kuala Lumpur City Centre
03 2164 5084
www.noburestaurants.com

Officine Panerai

The Hour Glass
#226 & #227, Ground Floor
The Gardens Mall
03 2287 7830
www.panerai.com

Patek Philippe

#G41 & #42, Ground Floor
Suria KLCC Shopping Centre
03 2161 3611
www.patek.com

Rolls-Royce

Quill 9, 112 Jalan Semangat
Petaling Jaya
03 7947 6333
www.rolls-roycemotorcars.com

Tiffany & Co

#G25B, Ground Floor
Suria KLCC Shopping Centre
03 2163 2088
www.tiffany.com

Vacheron Constantin

Cortina Watch
#122 & #123
Suria KLCC Shopping Centre
03 2164 5175
www.vacheron-constantin.com

Van Cleef & Arpels

G15(C), Indulge Floor
Starhill Gallery
03 2142 8669
www.vancleefarpels.com



THE FIFTH DIMENSION

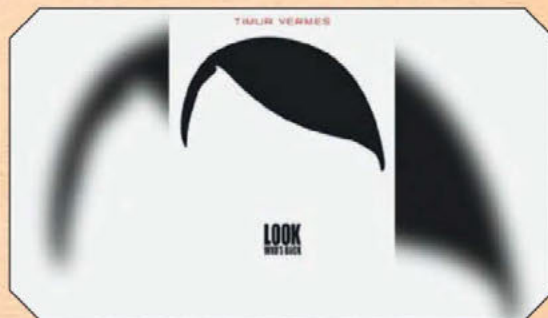
This issue is all about the high-end time-measuring mechanisms that we love so much. But occasionally, time escapes our control and becomes art, as seen in the following examples.

By ALEX CHOMA



SLIDING DOORS

This 1998 British-American movie explores what could have happened if we were just a tick faster on the London Underground and what if we weren't.



HE'S BACK

A bestseller in Germany, this book tells the tale of Hitler who suddenly awakes from a 66-year sleep in contemporary Berlin. Highly recommended.



DALI ATOMICUS

Philippe Halsman's famous frozen moment in time with Salvador Dalí, cats and furniture up in the air was made in 1948, but still remains rather disturbing.



TIME IN A BOTTLE

This song by Jim Croce is one of the most beautiful that has been written about time. A note of caution, however: it might cause a space-time continuum if played on the Apple Watch.

Designed for winning awards

Pureline, the new generation of built-in cooking appliances by Miele embodies the purest principles of design. Stunning symmetry and sleek aesthetics ensure endless combinations for a visually harmonious ensemble of appliances. Together, they promise unprecedented ease of preparation, culinary precision and unsurpassed gourmet results. A new design for your life and the way you live your life.

For more details, please visit <http://designforlife.miele.my>

Design for life.



reddot design award
winner 2013

For more information, please contact the Miele Gallery, G1-01-1, Ground Floor,
Menara SapuraKencana Petroleum, Solaris Dutamas, No 1, Jalan Dutamas 1, 50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel: 603 6205 3899 Mail: info@miele.com.my Web: www.miele.my

Miele
IMMER BESSER

STEP INTO THE FUTURE.

THE ALL-NEW BMW i8. BORN ELECTRIC.

The majestic scissor doors and fluid lines of the revolutionary all-new BMW i8 captivate the heart and ignite the imagination with the poetry of the aerodynamic design. The BMW eDrive and BMW TwinPower Turbo engine are balanced with exquisite precision for true hybrid fluidity in this innovative sports car. Even a cursory glance reveals a compelling vision of the future – today.

BMW i



Sheer
Driving Pleasure



BMW EFFICIENT DYNAMICS.
LESS CONSUMPTION. MORE DRIVING PLEASURE.

5 YEARS
BMW WARRANTY
WITH FREE SCHEDULED SERVICE

BMW Malaysia Sdn Bhd
(Company No. 612731-A)

Actual car specifications may vary from picture shown above.